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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

‘HE’S ONE OF OURS’

Bergdahl's Idaho hometown finds itself blindsided by hatred

By MARTIN KUZ
Stars and Stripes

HAILEY, Idaho

The news cascaded through this verdant valley town of 8,000 people on a summer day a few years ago. Within hours, dozens of residents had gathered at Zaney's River Street Coffee House, offering solace for a family in crisis.

They placed bouquets on the black iron benches beside the shop's entrance and wrote sympathy messages on a handmade yellow poster taped to a front window. Their words eddied around a photo of a Hailey native son who had been taken away.

In 2006, the young man in the portrait was Zane Martin. Three years later, it was Bowe Bergdahl.

The first name is little known outside Hailey. The second needs little explanation. Yet in reaction to both calamities, those who live here wanted only to aid their own in a time of adversity, a theme largely absent from news reports about the city since the Bergdahl story erupted last month.

SEE BERGDAHL ON PAGE 8

A shop along Main Street in Hailey, Idaho, displays a sign of support for native son Bowe Bergdahl.

MARTIN KUZ
Stars and Stripes

Conflict in Iraq producing bizarre Mideast dynamic

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has found itself in a foreign policy and national security pickle of rare complexity with the apparent entry of Syria into the Iraq conflict on the side of the U.S.-backed government in Baghdad as well as active Iranian military support for Iraqi

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Washington already was toying a delicate line with Shiite Iran, which the U.S. deems the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism, over their common short-term interest in turning back the advance of militant Sunni rebels in Iraq.

Now, to its dismay, Syrian President

Bashar Assad — regarded in Washington as a pariah who should be ousted — has joined the club with what U.S. and Iraqi officials say are airstrikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in western Iraq. The ISIL had been fighting Assad in Syria before turning its major focus to seizing large swaths of northern Iraq.

Assad is being supported by Iran in his country's own civil war with

opposition forces, and a decision for Syria to hit the ISIL on Iraqi soil is perhaps not surprising. While al-Maliki may not like Syrian attacks on Iraqi territory, "if it distracts the Islamic State from its trek towards Baghdad for a while, then they will welcome it," said Robert Ford, former U.S. ambassador to Syria.

SEE DYNAMIC ON PAGE 9

Parliament takes first step toward forming new government for Iraq

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wanted to serve God at a higher level. And I wanted to be able to fit in the seat of a roller coaster and buy one seat on the airplane instead of two."

— Jim Black, who lost 90 pounds in a year through a diet plan promoted by Pastor Rick Warren as more churches encourage physical as well as spiritual health

See story on Page 14

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MIDEAST



Noah Spevak, an employee at the base Navy Exchange in Bahrain, drops the puck during a face-off while refereeing the third-place game of Bahrain's first hockey league season on Sunday.

Photos by Hendrick Simoes/Stars and Stripes

Ice hockey catches on in Bahrain

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Want to play ice hockey? Consider taking orders to Bahrain. The sport is growing in this Persian Gulf island kingdom — largely part because of the U.S. personnel stationed here.

Bahrain's first eight-week hockey league season wrapped up with the championship game at the country's only rink near the naval base here. The rink is small, about a quarter of Olympic size, and lacks some of the markings.

The four teams in the league play three-on-three hockey with a modified set of rules that Noah Spevak, an employee at the base Navy Exchange, helped develop.

"It's been a lot of long nights, and a lot of long days just putting things together," Spevak said.

When he started going to the rink in October, there were only pickup games, but Spevak said he noticed a desire to take things to the next level. He put his 20 years of experience playing hockey

to work to help establish rules and expectations for teams and players. He worked with Tamer Fakhroo, a Bahraini who's been passionate about ice hockey since watching the NHL on television as a kid.

"I thought this is the best game ever, because these guys play like [soccer] and they get to skate on the ice, and they get to fight. So basically they're doing three things in one game," Fakhroo said.

Fakhroo — an IT manager in Bahrain — describes the league as "a dream that came true" and credits the Americans for bringing their hockey playing experience to Bahrain. "A big part of developing the game here is our friends from the U.S. base, because they came here, they developed the game, they helped with coaching."

About 10 Americans — mostly servicemembers — are among the 30 hockey players in the league.

"It's very good," said Sameh Hejazi, one of the Bahraini players. "They help me a lot. We get a lot of experience from them."



Referee Spevak was key in helping establish rules and expectations for teams and players for the hockey league.

In exchange, the Americans gain cultural experience.

"When we go to dinner as a team or as a group, you see the younger military guys asking the younger Bahraini guys about Islam and about Bahrain," Spevak

said. "They are getting that one-on-one interaction with somebody their own age."

A sponsorship from delivery service provider DHL has generated funds to pay for jerseys and equipment, which are not available at stores on the island and have to be ordered online.

Ice hockey is not only catching on in Bahrain. There are tournaments in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other Middle East nations.

Fakhroo would like to eventually get the league recognized by the International Ice Hockey Federation, the sport's world governing body. But Bahrain would have to have a full-size hockey rink and meet other requirements. There is a new rink being built near the airport, but it won't be completed for another two to three years.

"So, fingers crossed, as soon as we have an official ice rink this game is going to spread," Fakhroo said.

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STARS AND STRIPES.



MIDEAST

US watches Afghan troops

Situations different, but Iraqi desertions hang over debate of country's needs

By JOSH SMITH
AND ZUBAIR BABAKRKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — The current battle for a region of southern Afghanistan highlights some of the lingering issues that may dog Afghan forces well into the future, even as a counterattack by Afghan troops is pushing back the Taliban offensive that threw the area into chaos.

Afghan officials say coordination among their forces in Helmand province has been effective, but the sudden onslaught by hundreds of militants remains a worrying sign, particularly after the stunning collapse of the Iraqi army in the face of a brazen attack by a large force of Islamic jihadists.

U.S. officials have watched in consternation as troops in Iraq, which were also trained and equipped by American advisers, dropped their weapons and fled rather than stand and fight the militants.

While the situations in the two countries remain distinct and unique, the failures of local forces in Iraq hang over the debate about what aid Afghanistan will need to prevent insurgent groups from regaining influence.

Operating on their own, Afghan soldiers and police appear to have blunted the Taliban thrust but at a high cost that is still rising. And the limited but significant international assistance, such as intelligence and air support provided to Afghan forces in Helmand, underlines the remaining gaps in their capabilities.

In the pre-dawn hours of June 20, Taliban forces used the cover of darkness to attack checkpoints across the Helmand province district of Sangin, which was vacated by U.S. Marines only last month, according to district governor Sulaiman Shah.

"After that the serious fighting started between the security forces in the area and the insurgents," he told Stars and Stripes. "The clashes have continued until now, although the violence has gone up and down."



JOSEPH SCANLAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Marines

Marines with Scout Sniper Platoon, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, man security positions June 13 during a mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The government counteroffensive coincided with an influx of assistance from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

The ISAF said in a statement: "We have continued to provide the following military support to Afghan National Security Forces over the past 72 hours in Northern Helmand province: helicopter escort to ANSF MEDEVACs; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets; and close air support."

Sangin district governor Shah reported regularly seeing ISAF helicopters over the battlefield, but no coalition ground troops.

ISAF officials reiterated that "this remains an ANSF-led operation."

Still, the support provided by the ISAF during the fighting underlined the warnings by analysts who say Afghan forces will need help with air support, intelligence and other logistics for years to come, long after the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO combat troops at the end of this year.

"We conclude that international support (to include the presence of advisers) will be required to address the gaps in mobility, logistics, air support, intelligence gathering and analysis, and training of specialty skills through at least 2018," concluded a U.S. Defense Department-sponsored report released in January.

President Barack Obama announced in May that 9,800 American troops, most of them advisers, will remain in Afghanistan after 2014 if an agreement is reached with the Afghan government. That number will drop steadily until the end of 2016, when only a small contingent based at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul is to remain.

"A recurring theme in meetings with Afghan officials was concern about ANSF shortcomings in logistics, air support, intelligence and other technical aspects of modern security operations sometimes known as



CODY KELLEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marines

A convoy of mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles carries Marines from the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, down Route 1 near Geresikh in Afghanistan's Helmand province last month.

'enablers,' the International Crisis Group said in a recent report. "Enablers for Afghan operations are not only a matter of day-to-day requirements, they are also necessary for the long-term struggle to maintain morale and cohesiveness among the ranks."

The fighting in Helmand, which eventually may have included as many as 1,000 militants, initially spread beyond Sangin to areas in Nawzad and Kajaki districts, said Abdul Ahad Chohan, a spokesman for the Helmand provincial police.

Over the past three days or so, government reinforcements have been rushed to the area, and Chohan said the violence had died down in Nawzad and Kajaki. "Overall, the ANSF is in better control of the fight," he told Stars and Stripes.

But Chohan said the battle continued in Sangin. Overnight, a Taliban attack on a checkpoint and the subsequent counterattack left seven people dead, a bomb killed five civilians and insurgents reportedly burned the homes of and killed several relatives of local policemen.

Casualty reports remain vague,

NATO servicemember killed in Afghanistan

KABUL — A NATO servicemember was killed in an attack in southern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led international coalition said Thursday.

NATO said the soldier died as a result of an enemy forces attack in the south on Wednesday. The alliance provided no other details in its statement. Coalition policy is for home countries to identify their military dead.

The death brought to 11 the number of NATO servicemembers killed so far this month, with eight of the fatalities

being American. So far this year, 40 NATO troops have died in Afghanistan, including 29 Americans.

All foreign combat troops are scheduled to be withdrawn from the country by the end of this year. Casualties have been falling in the U.S.-led military coalition as its forces pull back to allow the Afghan army and police to fight the Taliban insurgency.

The Taliban have launched their annual spring offensive, promising to step up attacks against Afghan security forces in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government.

From The Associated Press

but Afghan officials claim as many as 150 Taliban have been killed, along with more than 30 government soldiers and police. More than 50 civilians are reported to have perished, mostly by improvised bombs, and thousands of families have fled the fighting.

Taliban spokesman Qari

Yousaf Ahmadi issued his own tally of casualties: 200 ANSF and only seven Taliban killed. He also claimed that foreign armored vehicles were destroyed, but both coalition and Afghan officials say no international ground troops were involved.

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PACIFIC

US official: China's actions in Asia-Pacific 'dangerous'

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — China is intentionally disregarding diplomacy in favor of force while staking its claim to territory in the Asia-Pacific region, the State Department's top official for the region told a Senate committee Wednesday.

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russell's comments came as Vietnamese officials and news outlets issued fresh images purportedly showing Chinese ships ramming Vietnamese vessels within the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

"China — as a strong and rising power — should hold itself to a high standard of behavior," Russell told the Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee on Wednesday. "To willfully disregard diplomatic and other peaceful ways of dealing with disagreements and disputes in favor of economic or physical coercion is destabilizing and dangerous."

Nations with competing claims to islands in the South and East China seas, including the Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and others, are "understandably alarmed by China's increasingly assertive efforts" to back their claims, Russell said.

China claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea's islands and reefs, mostly through what it deems as historical discovery. Other nations in the region base their claims primarily on their interpretations of international law.

Whoever controls the area also gains rights to vast fisheries and energy resources in the surrounding waters.

This week, Vietnam's Coast Guard website released images purportedly showing multiple Chinese ships crippling a Vietnamese fishery vessel on Monday.

While one Chinese ship rams Vietnamese vessel KN-951, another ship fires a water cannon. Water cannons can be used to cripple communications towers aboard the Vietnamese ships.

Vietnam news outlets say 29 official Vietnamese ships and seven private fishing boats have been damaged since the low-level conflict began in May, when China moved a \$1 billion offshore oil rig into waters near the disputed



Courtesy of Vietnam's coast guard

This image shows what Vietnam's coast guard says is a Chinese vessel ramming a Vietnamese fishery control vessel while another Chinese ship fires a water cannon Monday in a disputed area of the South China Sea.

Paracel Islands.

Despite diplomatic talks, dozens of Chinese and Vietnamese ships continue to confront each other in the area. Still, neither side has opened fire on the other.

Although each side has accused the other of being the aggressor

in the ship-ramming incidents, most of China's coast guard ships are considerably larger than the Vietnamese vessels involved in the incidents.

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5 US troops on Okinawa treated for tattoo-linked infections

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

Five U.S. servicemembers on Okinawa ended up in the hospital emergency room this month seeking treatment for infections related to getting tattoos in unsanitary conditions at tattoo shops off base, according to Navy officials.

Navy officials say at least four of the patients received their tattoos from the same shop, but the military has not identified the shop.

Four of the troops were treated for a bacterial skin infection, while the other case was the result of a tattoo over a smallpox vaccine site, which then spread to the rest of the tattoo on the person's arm. Two of the servicemembers needed to be hospitalized; one of them was admitted to the intensive care unit, according to Brian Davis, Naval Hospital Okinawa spokesman.

Though, technically illegal in Japan, tattoo shops can be found easily throughout the country. They are especially prevalent outside the gates of U.S. bases. On Okinawa, it is common to see U.S. troops lined up out the door on most evenings to get some new ink.

Japanese officials say they are waiting for more information from the Navy hospital on which shop or shops were linked to the emergency room visits.

"We were informed of the infections June 13 by the U.S. Navy Hospital (on Okinawa)," said Atsushi Ono, chief of the Infectious Diseases Control Team of the Medical Department of the Okinawa Prefectural Government. "We have made inquiries about the detail on the shop, including the name and where it is located."

The tattoo shop is believed to be in the central area on the island, where major military installa-



tions are concentrated. "Once we can identify the shop, we will have the public health

center under the jurisdiction conduct investigation," he said.

While the five cases in question

said.

"While there are shops physically located in town, others perform in an apartment room or some even make a house call," he said. "Once the shop is identified, we will take a necessary action, including an investigation on violation of the Medical Practitioner's Law."

While it is regulated by the U.S. military, getting a tattoo is not a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Still, servicemembers should be careful, Lt. Cmdr. Marion Gregg, director of Public Health at the Okinawa Naval hospital, said in a Navy release last week.

"I would not recommend getting a tattoo, but if personnel choose to, they should do some careful research before selecting a tattoo facility," Gregg said. "Take a close look at the facility for cleanliness and observe the artist at work to make sure that the tattooing process is as safe and sterile as possible. And don't be afraid to ask questions."

The Naval hospital recently put out a list of tattoo tips and asked people to notify military public health representatives if they notice any issues.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report. kimber.james@stripes.com
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Above: A tattoo shop stands outside Camp Foster's main gate in Ginowan, Okinawa. Left: Tattoo shops line the streets outside American military installations on Okinawa.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BUNKE/Stars and Stripes

were easily treatable, unsanitary needles could pass along more severe infections, such as hepatitis B or C, or even HIV, he said.

Inserting needles into the skin is a medical practice, said Yoshiyuki Iha, spokesman for the Health Care Policy Division of the medical department. Therefore any tattoo artist operating without a medical license is doing so illegally.

However, understanding the legal issues surrounding tattoo parlors is extremely difficult, Iha

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MILITARY

Thrift plan advocated for military savings

By TOM PHLOTT

Military savers are discovering the special advantages a Roth-type Thrift Savings Plan provides to them, given that their taxable income is dampened by tax-free allowances and periodic tax-exempt combat tours.

The Roth TSP choice became available in May 2012. TSP account balances so far average only \$2,500 for all uniformed personnel.

But the military participation rate in Roth TSP tells the tale. While uniformed personnel have 15 percent of all TSP accounts, they are 46 percent of Roth TSP participants. It's a trend advocates for adding the Roth option forecast.

"When we were preparing to launch the Roth TSP option, we anticipated it would be particularly attractive to our military participants," said Kim Weaver, spokesperson for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which administers the TSP for federal civilian workers and the military.

Servicemembers "generally are lower paid and so don't benefit as greatly from a traditional pre-tax/tax-deferred option," Weaver said. "But allowing them to contribute after-tax dollars that can grow for decades, and that can accept tax-exempt combat pay, is very attractive to military participants."

Unlike traditional TSP that builds on using pre-tax contributions, Roth TSP contributions

come from post-tax earnings. Those savings and any gains generated across a variety of TSP investment options will not be taxed when withdrawn in retirement.

A Roth TSP is especially attractive "for more junior members because their tax liability is low in the first place," said Jeri Busch, director of military compensation policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. "If they put it in post-tax, they get to take it out no-tax. The advantage is there if you expect your tax bracket will be higher when you retire than it is currently."

About a third of regular military compensation is tax-exempt allowances. When taxable pay becomes fully tax-exempt in a combat area "the tax benefit of the Roth is tremendous," said Steve Galing, deputy director of military compensation.

Busch agreed. "If they are in a combat zone tax relief area, sometimes referred to as a combat zone tax exclusion area ... they can contribute to a Roth, without tax, going in, and then later take it out, without tax, coming out," she said.

The adage that servicemembers who leave short of 20 years do so with no retirement benefits remains technically true. But many of those same members depart today with retirement savings, thanks to TSP. In April, the average TSP account balance for military participants was \$17,400.

Congress established the TSP for federal civilians so they would

MILITARY UPDATE

have the same type of retirement savings and tax benefits that many private corporations were offering to employees through 401(k) plans. The TSP with matching government contributions became a critical leg of the retirement reform package designed for federal civilians hired after Jan. 1, 1984.

The uniformed services, including the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, were invited to open TSP accounts starting in January 2002.

The TSP doesn't alter in any way a robust military retirement plan so servicemember participants get no government matching to incentivize their contributions.

Even so, military participation rates have climbed steadily for both active and reserve components. Last month, 583,000 active-duty servicemembers, or 41.5 percent of the force, made TSP contributions. About 134,000 active-duty members were contributing to a Roth TSP.

The Navy has led all services in touting the TSP to recruits and has the highest participation rate by far, at 61.4 percent. The Air Force is second, at 40.1 percent, followed by the Coast Guard at

39.7, the Marine Corps at 35.8 and the Army at 31.8. About 70 percent of DHS and NOAA officers have TSP accounts.

Almost 16 percent of Reserve and Guard personnel also participate. The Air Force leads, with 22 percent of its reserve component members making contributions.

The Marine Corps Reserve trails all branches at 7 percent.

Members who don't open TSP accounts might not understand how it can be a valuable lifetime savings tool. After leaving service, veterans and military retirees can't continue to make tax-deferred contributions unless they become federal civilian employees. However, they can roll private sector 401(k) accounts into the TSP, where fees are quite low, as they move between civilian jobs. Individual Retirement Accounts can be transferred into the TSP at anytime. TSP loans against account balances offer attractive rates.

TSP administrators, from time to time, have pointed out to Defense officials the disparity of participation across services. "The rates do seem to reflect the emphasis that the various branches have put on educating their servicemembers," Weaver said.

In 2009 Congress changed the TSP law to automatically enroll federal civilians who fall under the Federal Employees' Retirement System. The thrift investment board proposed auto-enrollment for military members

too, but the Department of Defense opposed the move, Weaver said.

"The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board still strongly supports auto enrollment of members of the uniformed services," Weaver said.

Busch said the Department of Defense is pleased with the level of military participation. It views the TSP as a valuable, long-term savings vehicle for members but it is not part of their direct compensation, Busch said. Surveys of military personnel show that more than 90 percent know about traditional TSP and about half of all members know about the Roth option.

There are limits on TSP contributions. For 2014, it is \$17,500 combined traditional and Roth. For the military, the limit applies to contributions of basic pay, incentive pays, special pays or bonuses.

The limit for traditional TSP contributions in combat areas is \$52,000, though Roth contributions in combat areas remain capped at \$17,500. (See www.tsp.gov for more details.)

Given the tax advantages and the convenience of saving and investing using payroll deductions, Busch said, "I would suggest to any individual they ought to consider" TSP. "It's in their best interests no matter who they are."

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Phloft @Military_Update.

Judge says US must detail Cole defendant's treatment

By CAROL ROSENBERG

The Miami Herald

A military judge isn't backing down from his order to the U.S. government to provide defense lawyers with details of the accused USS Cole bomber's odyssey through the CIA's secret prisons, but he may let prosecutors shield identities of some agents, according to people who have seen a secret Guantanamo war court order.

Army Col. James L. Pohl, the judge, issued an 11-page ruling Tuesday following a three-hour closed hearing May 29 at Guantanamo with defense and prosecution attorneys and another meeting a day later just with prosecutors.

In the order, according to three people who have read it, the judge retains the thrust of an April 14 discovery order requiring the U.S. government to give prosecutors, in classified fashion, precise details — names, dates, places — of Saudi prisoner Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri's four years of interrogation and detention in CIA custody.

Pohl's ruling was sent to lawyers at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, sources said. By Wednesday, there was

no notation of its existence on the war court website that discloses military commissions' filings — even those like the latest ruling, which is under seal for up to 15 days while intelligence agencies review it to black out secret information.

At the Pentagon, Army Lt. Col. Myles Caggins III said there was no immediate response from the prosecution on whether it would appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Military Commission Review — a move likely to stall progress in the death penalty tribunal of al-Nashiri as the alleged architect of al-Qaida's bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen in October 2000.

The discovery issue is seen as a bellwether for the court's other death-penalty case.

Pohl also is presiding at the 9/11 trial for five men accused of conspiring in the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. There, the prosecution is similarly seeking to shield from defense lawyers the details of the so-called "black site" program that waterboarded the alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed 183 times and denied its captives access to attorneys and visits by the International Red Cross.

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MILITARY

SEALs want more 'Don't Tread on Me' patches

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A military command that supplies U.S. Navy SEALs with new gear says it wants more shoulder patches emblazoned with "Don't Tread on Me," less than a year after a firestorm erupted when it was reported that the longstanding tradition could be ended.

U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command's contracting office in Virginia Beach, Va., quietly announced its intent to buy more patches in a notice to industry published June 3. Companies interested in supplying them must be able to show they can obtain the materials used in numerous kinds of

Navy uniforms, including those with desert and woodland patterns. The U.S. flag will have seven stripes that can be seen using infrared equipment, the command said.

Eight months after controversy erupted over the Navy's "Don't Tread on Me" patches, a new batch has been ordered for SEALs.

follows a controversy last year in which it was reported that Navy SEALs were no longer allowed to wear the "Don't Tread on Me" logo, also known as the First Navy flag. Placed on U.S. vessels, the flag depicts a rattlesnake over red and white stripes.

Navy personnel closely associate the logo with the global war on terrorism because then-Navy Secretary Gordon England authorized it on May 31, 2002, as the official jack, or maritime flag, for the Navy for the duration of the global war on terrorism.

The controversy erupted after Carl Higbie, a former Navy SEAL and current Republican candidate for Congress, reported in November for the Daily Caller that some SEAL commanders had ordered their personnel not to wear the "Don't Tread on Me" patch. He speculated that it was because it is similar to another flag with the "Don't Tread on Me" motto adopted by the conservative tea party political movement.

The Navy quickly responded, telling the Wall Street Journal and other media outlets that they had investigated the issue and found no evidence of a ban.

The Navy Times later reported that a senior enlisted sailor had prepared new uniform regulations. As of September 2013, the Navy actually expanded its usage of the "Don't Tread on Me" patch to allow SEALs to wear the patches while in the United States, rather than just while deployed or in pre-deployment training, officials told Navy Times.



PHOTOS BY HENDRICKS/STARS AND STRIPES

Ali Hassan, a base cultural adviser at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, briefs about 150 U.S. personnel Tuesday about customs during Ramadan.

US personnel in Bahrain make accommodations for Ramadan

By HENDRICKS SMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. personnel accustomed to drinking their coffee on the drive to work will have to put that habit on hold for about a month. It's one of a few lifestyle changes Americans will have to make during the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Officials expect Ramadan to begin at sunrise on Saturday, depending on when the new moon is sighted. The holy month lasts for approximately 30 days — until about July 28. For Muslims around the world, Ramadan is a month of fasting and devotion to God. Most Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, when families gather for iftar — the meal that breaks the fast.

For the 8,200 U.S. personnel living here, and those serving throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility — including servicemembers, civilian personnel, contractors and family members — the month may require changing some daily routines.

Businesses and government offices will reduce hours and most restaurants will be closed during daylight hours.

While not required to fast during Ramadan, in Bahrain, Americans can be fined or detained by local authorities for eating, drinking or smoking in public when off-base during daylight hours.

Navy officials are requiring U.S. personnel to dress more conservatively off-base during Ramadan. Although not a requirement by Bahraini authorities, the Navy is demanding that men wear long-sleeved shirts and women wear sleeved blouses that cover their



The Yateem Mosque is shown in central Manama, Bahrain.

elbows. Also, men must wear long trousers, and women should wear pants or skirts that cover the knees.

Base cultural advisers have spent the last few weeks conducting Ramadan briefs to educate Americans about the holy month. Ali Hassan briefed about 150 personnel Tuesday about Islam, the lunar calendar and customs and traditions during Ramadan.

It actually made me want to do a lot more research into the religion," said Petty Officer 1st Class James Ramirez. He said the additional requirements during the month aren't a big deal to him. "For such a small period of time, it's a small sacrifice," he said.

Other servicemembers echoed that sentiment. Hassan encouraged personnel to experience iftar in a Ramadan tent, many of which are set up at various locations around Bahrain during the holy month and welcome non-Muslims.

"Make it a point to visit these

Things to know during Ramadan

■ Eating, drinking, chewing and smoking in public are civil offenses in some Islamic countries.

■ Men should wear long sleeves and pants. Women's sleeves should extend below the elbow and pants or skirts should cover the knees.

■ Avoid critical remarks about fasting or any religious practice. Most restaurants will be closed except those in 4- and 5-star hotels.

■ Businesses alter and reduce hours during the day, some open at night until early morning hours.

■ Arabs are good hosts and may offer you food or refreshments during daylight hours. Such offers should be declined.

■ All consumption of alcohol by U.S. military personnel is prohibited at any off-base public venue in the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility during Ramadan.

■ It's customary to say "Ramadan Kareem" during Ramadan.

Source: NSA Bahrain Public Affairs and Ali Hassan, cultural adviser on NSA Bahrain

tents while you're here. You don't know if you'll ever come back to Bahrain in the future," Hassan said during the brief.

While the tents offer a more traditional atmosphere, many restaurants put aside their regular menus during the month and serve special iftar dinners.

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Ship with Benghazi suspect is dark

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
The Washington Post

Where is the USS New York?

At 684 feet long and displacing more than 24,900 tons, the Mayport, Fla.-based San Antonio-class Amphibious Transport dock is no smart car of the seas. Yet the vessel has gone "dark" for more than a week now.

The low profile might have something to do with the fact that the New York is currently home to the recently captured Ahmed Abu Khattala, one of the accused ringleaders of the Sept. 11, 2012, Benghazi terrorist attacks that left four Americans dead.

While any ship's location is supposed to be a well-guarded secret when deployed, the New York is in a unique position, because instead of threading its way through the Suez Canal or dodging a Chinese destroyer, it's believed to be steaming toward Washington, where Abu Khattala is expected to be arraigned soon.

The ship's crew has been noticeably absent from social media, most likely due to the fact that the entire ship's outbound communications have been blacked out, or as the military calls it, "River City." River City is usually implemented when a soldier is wounded or killed during combat operations. It allows for the Defense Department to notify family members before word gets out through unofficial means such as social media.

Officials have said Khattala must be flown directly from the ship into Washington for legal reasons.

The distance, as the crow flies, between Washington and Benghazi is around 5,280 miles. The New York, which can make 25 mph off its four turbochargers, H-1 engines and two gas turbines, would make that distance in a little less than 11 days if cruising at 20 miles per hour and without interruption caused by inclement weather.

Because Khattala was captured 10 days ago, there's a strong chance the New York is getting ready to pay the East Coast a visit.

So will the New York dock on the Georgetown waterfront? No, due to her draft and the shallowness of the Potomac River, the New York will most likely stay out at sea or somewhere in the Chesapeake Bay before transporting Khattala from her flight deck via helicopter or V-22 Osprey to Washington.

Since Khattala has to be transported directly from the ship into Washington, that leaves only one airfield that services military aircraft: Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

MILITARY

Resort hotel also serves as military test site

By MELISSA NELSON-GABRIEL
The Associated Press



MELISSA NELSON-GABRIEL/AP

Tourists return from the beach June 17 at the Fort Walton Beach Holiday Inn Resort in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

low like a beach ball.

While the Air Force has done other projects with private companies before, this is the first time it has ever merged a base with a hotel, said Mike Spaits, the base spokesman.

The move was added to the radar installation to make it "less military and more visitor-friendly," said Wesley Mason, a contractor who helped develop the project.

Outside, tourists with drinks in hand floated through the landscaped, beach-front pool featuring a rocky waterfall fountain. Inside, families browsed the beach-themed gift shop and dined at a restaurant overlooking the pool.

The military presence is unob-

trusive and limited to a few people, often contract employees without uniforms, who work on the roof.

Lamon Moody, a hotel guest from Baton Rouge, La., relaxed on the beach with his family on a recent afternoon. Moody said he had no idea the beach ball covered military equipment.

"I think that's pretty cool. I'm in favor of anything that helps out the military," he said.

Another vacationer, Jeff Harwell of Fort Worth, Texas, said he and his family had speculated about the giant beach ball.

"We talked about it when we were first noticed it," he said. "We thought maybe those things sticking out of it were lightning rods."

Official: AF must empower young nuclear leaders

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — The key to improving morale in the Air Force's nuclear missile corps is to put more responsibility in the hands of junior officers and enlisted airmen, the commander of the missile corps said Wednesday.

In an Associated Press interview at Minot Air Force Base, which operates one-third of the nation's 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles, Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein said that in addition to devoting more resources to the mission, he is pushing to empower those who maintain, operate and secure the missiles.

"They were being microman-

aged," he said. "Their morale has suffered in part because they are told their work is important but they are not permitted to make even basic decisions about how to perform it, Weinstein said. He said that over time, that has tended to detract from their sense of purpose.

He said he first realized the extent of this problem last fall when he took command of the intercontinental ballistic missile force, the 20th Air Force. While visiting a missile crew in the field, he learned that the decision to permit a "camper alert team," or temporary security force, to leave a missile launch facility after resolution of whatever security issue had prompted the team's deployment, could only be made by a squadron commander, a lieutenant colonel, back at the home base rather than by the officer in the missile field.

That showed Weinstein that "we had elevated decisions to an

unhealthy level." He said that when he was a lieutenant and a Minuteman 3 missile launch crew officer, he was allowed to make the kind of decision that would release the "camper alert team."

"The best way to produce leaders of the future is to make sure that when they are junior you properly educate and train them and you let them make decisions," he said.

Not all ICBM commanders appear to share Weinstein's view that the force has been micromanaged.

Col. Robert Vercher, who stepped down Tuesday as commander of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot, said in an AP interview shortly before his departure that tight control of the nuclear mission is necessary to maintain public confidence in the Air Force's nuclear stewardship.

"You might call it micromanagement, but I would call it oversight — proper oversight," Vercher said.

"When I hear the word 'micromanagement' I go, 'It depends.' How much do you want your tax return micromanaged by your accountant? Exquisitely or just kind of haphazardly?" Vercher said.

Weinstein was in Minot for a change-of-command ceremony at the 91st Missile Wing, which operates 150 Minuteman 3 missiles that are in launch-ready status in underground silos spread across 8,500 square miles in the northwestern corner of North Dakota.

At Tuesday's ceremony, Col. Michael Lutton took command, succeeding Vercher, whose two years in charge here included a poor showing by the 91st on a nuclear inspection in March 2013.

Marines take new tack on sea-based roots

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Although the Marine Corps intends to go back to its amphibious roots, don't expect to see any epic beach assaults like those of previous eras, the Marine in charge of force planning and development said Thursday.

"When I say amphibious assault, what comes to mind?" Lt. Gen. Kenneth Glueck, the commander of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, said to reporters. "Inchon. Guadalcanal. Iwo Jima? OK. That's not the intent. ... We're not going to take four assault ships and landing craft right into the teeth of the enemy. We're going to take it around to find the gaps and the seams around the flanks or even further.

"We want to put strength against weakness," he said. "We're going to go ... where they're weak."

Glueck said Marine leaders likely would launch amphibious attacks at night so forces would be less vulnerable.

One reason the Marines want to outmaneuver adversaries from the sea rather than hit them head-on is that China and even smaller powers are developing sophisticated anti-ship missiles that can accurately target warships at longer distances.

"As threats have developed, [just being] over the horizon is not good enough," Glueck said. The launch point "got pushed out further."

Glueck said launching landing craft from such a long distance is problematic.

The John Wayne factor goes down after about an hour of bob-

bing around in one of those things, trust me," he said.

The service's renewed focus on sea-based assaults comes at a time when the strategic environment is changing. During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Marines essentially functioned as a second land army taking the fight to insurgents. But the approaching withdrawal of all American combat troops from Afghanistan has made such a force less necessary, and prompted the service to shift back to what it has long considered its core mission: attacking from ship to shore.

At the round-table discussion with reporters, Glueck also discussed another long-standing Marine Corps task — protecting American diplomatic facilities abroad — which has taken on greater urgency since the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. consulate and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya. Four Americans were killed in the assaults, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Last year, a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force was set up in Moron, Spain, to be a rapid reaction force that could respond to threats to diplomats and other American citizens in Africa. Earlier this year, Marines from the SP-MAGTF evacuated embassy personnel from Juba, South Sudan, as fighting among factions there escalated.

More recently, a Fleet Antiracket Security Team comprising about 50 Marines was sent to Baghdad on June 15 to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities as the security situation in Iraq deteriorated. An additional 550 Marines, along with transport aircraft, are on board the USS Mesa Verde in

the Persian Gulf in case they are needed to evacuate American citizens from Iraq.

Glueck said these recent missions are "part of the new normal," and the Marine Corps is developing accordingly.

In addition to the SP-MAGTF, the service has stood up a Marine Security Force Augmentation Unit to give the State Department and U.S. ambassadors the ability to bring in additional Marines if diplomatic facilities in a particular country come under greater threat. Glueck said this force has been called upon about 15 times in the past six months.

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MILITARY

Bergdahl: Residents of POW's hometown struggle to understand negative press

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Our motivation with Bowe has always been personal. It's never been political," said Sue Martin, who owns Zaney's, and who found comfort in the town's collective embrace after tragedy blew apart her life eight years ago. On July 3, 2006, her youngest son, Zane, with whom she opened the shop, died in a motorcycle accident on a twisty mountain road outside of town. He was 22.

The compassion of her fellow residents sustained Martin's spirit. She carried on the business, and later hired Bergdahl as a barista where he joined the Army. "This community showed nothing but concern and kindness to my family," she said, talking over a coffee grinder's high whine as she prepared an Americano. "That's what we've shown since everything began with Bowe."

For bothering to care, the town was turned into a media piñata.

Before the Bergdahl saga, Hailey played the quiet, sensible sibling to Ketchum, a posh enclave 12 miles north, where the likes of Tom Hanks, Sen. John Kerry and Arnold Schwarzenegger own seven-figure vacation nests and carve turns at Sun Valley ski resort.

The past month has disfigured that inviting image. Hailey residents have seen their city branded as the birthplace of a soldier widely vilified as a deserter, a traitor and various unprintable words, and their support of him denounced as treasonous. As they worry about Bergdahl's well-being and await his return to Hailey, their warmth toward outsiders has chilled. They wonder if, in the coming weeks, there will be more ugliness.

'He's one of ours'

No narrative from the longest war in U.S. history may be more familiar to Americans than that of Bergdahl.

He deployed to Afghanistan in February 2009; insurgents captured him that June. He was 23. They held him until last month, when the Obama administration negotiated his release in exchange for five Taliban detainees imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay. He received medical care in Germany for several days before flying to Texas two weeks ago to continue his recovery at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Doctors have since begun treating him on an outpatient basis.

A Pentagon investigation in 2009 concluded that Bergdahl, promoted from private to sergeant during his five years in captivity, walked away from his unit's outpost in eastern Afghanistan's Paktika province. The reasons remain unclear, and he has admitted no wrongdoing in debriefings with Army officials. Several former members of his platoon have gone public to accuse him

of desertion, with some claiming that as many as six soldiers died during missions to search for him in the weeks after he vanished. (The Army has assigned Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dahl to review the circumstances of Bergdahl's disappearance and capture. His report is expected in August.)

In the days following his release, criticism of Bergdahl's alleged actions and President Barack Obama's decision to free the Taliban prisoners simmered on cable news and online. Pages named "Bowe Bergdahl is NOT a Hero!" and "Bowe Bergdahl is a Traitor" sprouted on Facebook and drew thousands of profanely supportive comments. Bursts of fury were sprayed across Twitter: "Bowe Bergdahl should be hanged and Obama should be impeached," wrote a woman who described herself as an Army veteran's wife.

The vitriol soon boiled over and scalded Hailey. Nestled in the Wood River Valley of southern Idaho, a region of jagged geography that could double for Paktika, the town is at once tight-knit and laid-back. A liberal pocket in a conservative state, it is a place where the affluent and less so mingle without much friction, united in their craving for nature.

A miling stretch of Main Street serves as the city's commercial artery, accented with outdoor gear stores and craft shops, burger joints and brew pubs. Along with yellow ribbons that ring trees and lampposts in Bergdahl's honor, posters in storefronts bear his photo and exclaim "Bowe Is Free At Last!"

Organizers of the city's annual "Bring Bowe Back" rally, learning of his imminent return to U.S. soil, announced plans in early June to recast the gathering as a celebration, switching to the upbeat slogan "Bowe Is Back." A deluge of anger arrived in the form of phone calls and emails from across the country.

Many seethed over what they regarded as a "hero's welcome" for a servicemember they believed deserved to face a firing squad. Some threatened to crash the event, scheduled for this weekend, and bring along a few thousand cohorts. An inflamed national debate related to Afghanistan, a rare occurrence during the 13-year war, had been unleashed on a town as unassuming as it was unsuspecting.

The organizers blinked. They scrubbed the rally and, reeling from the outrage, they and most of the area's public officials withdrew from the media fray. Wary of the scrutiny, Martin, who has acted as a liaison for Bergdahl's parents, Bob and Jani, closed Zaney's for two weeks and stopped giving interviews. The silence has failed to appease detractors, most of whom appear unaware that residents here refrained from referring to Bergdahl, now 28, as



MARTIN Kuz/Stars and Stripes

Sue Martin, who owns Zaney's River Street Coffee House, lost her youngest son in a motorcycle accident in 2006. The coffee shop, which she had co-owned with her son, has served as both a rallying point and a refuge for supporters of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in his hometown of Hailey, Idaho.

a hero throughout his ordeal and after his release.

Larry Schoen, a friend of Martin's, belongs to the Blaine County Board of Commissioners. He stands alone among local officials in his willingness to talk with reporters about Bergdahl. A former TV news producer, he held a press conference two weeks ago to lament the "misguided rage" toward the soldier and his hometown, and he urged critics to "be patient and allow the military process to work."

In an interview at his home on a 300-acre farm in nearby Picabo, where he lives with his wife and two children, Schoen explained that, as much as elsewhere, questions persist in Hailey about how Bergdahl wound up a prisoner of war. But along with the skepticism there exists empathy for him and his parents.

"The event itself as originally planned was to remind the world that he was a captive of the Taliban and not to forget him," said Schoen, who moved to Idaho from New York 15 years ago.

"When he was released, that message of hope became a message of celebration. That seemed like a really logical transition. But it was misinterpreted to mean that we were somehow worshipping him as a hero. We've not labeled him a hero. What we've said is, 'He's one of ours, we care about him, we care about his family, we want him brought home safely.'"

Seeking to better understand his son's circumstance, Bob Bergdahl grew a long beard common to Afghan tribal leaders, studied books on Afghanistan and learned Pashto, one of the country's two primary languages. The derision aimed at him for his efforts has baffled Schoen.

"The idea that people would threaten the Bergdahls for doing

what any parents would do — which is anything in their power to bring their son home safely — is unfathomable to us. And I suspect it's unfathomable to most people," he said.

Schoen frets that Bergdahl's prescriptive return to Hailey could again subject residents to what has felt like a nation's wrath. Looking out a kitchen window at his fields and the mountains beyond, a tableau of serenity, he appealed for peace. "Enough with the attacks and threats — these are good people, America. Try to be just as compassionate as they are."

Lingering bewilderment

Sue Martin has longed for her son since losing him in 2006. Yet as deep as her pain runs, she struggles to imagine the anguish that the Bergdahls endured, waiting five years for word of their son's return. "Every day, every night, you would be thinking of him," she said. "Every breath."

Martin's untiring advocacy on behalf of the family has elevated her to the status of unofficial mayor, with Zaney's serving as rallying point and refuge for supporters. She never considered removing the signs hanging on the rust-red facade — "Standing With Bowe," "Our Prayers Have Been Answered!" and "Welcome Home Bowe!" — while her shop was closed.

She reopened in mid-June after cleaning out spoiled milk, eggs and cheese from a pair of refrigerators that died during her absence. The Wi-Fi signal crashed, too, so she called a technician to fix the problem. He worked on his laptop as customers drifted into the cafe.

There was a sense of fragile calm amid a lingering bewilder-

ment. Residents were perplexed that, reflected in the media looking glass, their altruism had been portrayed as abetting the enemy.

"As a mother, I would get behind anyone who had a son in danger, no matter what the reason was," said Robin Warner, an administrative assistant with Hailey's fire department. "That's what we've done as a community. How is that so hard to understand?"

Stephen Poktemba walked in and greeted Martin with a smile. "Nice to have you back," he said. A middle school teacher, he hopes that, in time, the Bergdahl family might find peace. "Think about what all of them have gone through the last five years," he said. "Isn't that cruel enough?"

He has a similar wish that the town will be allowed to recapture its tranquility. "The whole thing has been blown out of proportion. This is a good place."

Ted and Emily Morrison, a couple visiting from Tucson, Ariz., dropped by Zaney's in a show of solidarity. "The easiest thing to do is to tear someone down," said Ted Morrison, who served in the Navy for three years in the early 1960s. "Right now, in this country, everyone wants to see things in black and white, and Bowe Bergdahl is caught in the middle of all that."

In a box stashed in a corner, Martin collects letters of encouragement from across the country. Some are addressed to Bergdahl. The warm sentiments provide a bulwark against the bile.

"We were blindsided," she said. "But we're pretty resilient. We'll be all right. We're hardy mountain folk." She smiled. Then she offered no apologies for caring about Hailey's long-lost native son. "We're just glad he's coming home. Period."

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IRAQ

Syrian airstrikes on ISIL mark new strategy in war

By MOUSAB ALHAMADEE
AND JATHAN S. LANDAY
McClatchy Foreign Staff

ISTANBUL — After taking a hands-off approach toward the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant for several months, the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad has reversed course and has launched air attacks against the Sunni Muslim extremist group inside both Syria and Iraq.

The policy shift complicates an already tangled situation for the Obama administration by effectively aligning Assad, whose ouster Washington is demanding, with the United States in the fight against the ISIL.

The attacks by Syrian jet aircraft are occurring as Iraq's airspace appears to be growing crowded. The Pentagon this week confirmed that U.S. aircraft and unmanned drones are flying dozens of daily sorties over Iraq, collecting intelligence to share with the government of beleaguered Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Moreover, news reports said that Iran, which backs both al-Maliki and Assad, also is flying drone missions over Iraq.

Who is coordinating the Syrian air attacks on ISIL targets inside Iraq is unclear. The state-run Syrian news agency denied

that Syrian aircraft had bombed inside Iraq. But local Sunni tribes denounced the attacks, and White House spokesman Joshua Earnest said the administration has "no reason to dispute" the reports of Syrian airstrikes in Iraq.

The United States so far has declined to launch airstrikes against the ISIL, though al-Maliki has requested them.

The effectiveness of the Syrian strikes remains uncertain.

Opposition activists in Raqqa, the northern Syrian provincial capital that the ISIL made its headquarters after capturing the city in April 2013, said that fierce regime bombing on Wednesday missed the extremists' main bases and killed 30 civilians. Meanwhile, Syrian air attacks on Tuesday appeared to have done little to loosen ISIL control of the Iraqi border crossing of Qaim.

But Assad's new focus on the ISIL — which analysts say likely came at Iran's behest — carries potentially important political advantages for the Syrian leader, including putting his Iraqi counterpart, al-Maliki, in his debt. As a result, al-Maliki may have to more closely coordinate the fight against the ISIL with Syria.

Assad "is giving a hand to his ally, Maliki," said Abu al-Walid, an opposition activist contacted by telephone in Raqqa province.

Furthermore, Assad could point to the airstrikes to press his argument that he's indispensable in the fight against radical Islam and to demand that the United States and its European allies reconsider their demand for his departure from power as part of a settlement to Syria's civil war.

Joining the drive against the ISIL "could change his (Assad's) relationship with the international community," said Jessica D. Lewis, the research director of the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington research organization.

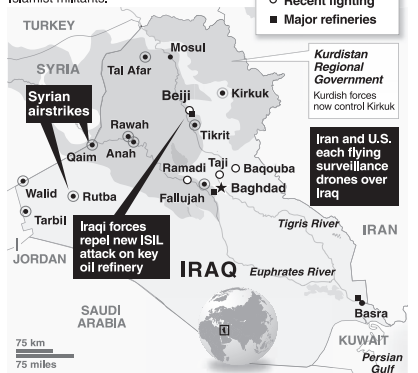
Other experts said that Assad's switch may be nothing more than a reaction to the mounting threat the group poses in Syria now that the ISIL has sent to Syria armored vehicles, artillery and other war materiel that it captured from the Shiite-dominated Iraqi army.

Until the ISIL began its drive earlier this month through northern and western Iraq following the capture of the country's second-largest city, Mosul, Assad's forces generally had refrained from directly attacking the group's main strongholds in eastern Syria, concentrating instead on recapturing highways and urban centers in western and southern Syria that had been held by other rebels.

The first hint that the Assad government had reconsidered that approach came June 11, one

Syria bombs insurgents in Iraq

Syria has stepped up air attacks on Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant targets in both Syria and Iraq. The attacks reverse what had been a hands-off policy toward the Islamist militants.



SOURCES: McClatchy Washington Bureau, AP, Reuters, The Long War Journal

JUDY THEIBLE, ROBERT DORRILL/MCT

day after the ISIL seized control of Mosul, when anti-Assad activists reported that Syrian aircraft had bombed an ISIL column headed to Iraq near the Syrian city of Deir el-Zour. Three days later, Syrian aircraft hit ISIL headquarters in Raqqa city hall.

The Syrian Air Force then staged 11 airstrikes on ISIL positions after the ISIL seized al-Mohanna, a town in Deir el-Zour province that controls a road to

the Iraqi border. Regime aircraft also hit ISIL bases in neighboring Hasaka province, which also borders Iraq.

On Tuesday, Syrian aircraft crossed the border and hit ISIL fighters who'd captured the Qaim border crossing and the nearby town of Ratba.

Opposition activists contacted in Raqqa described Wednesday's airstrikes as the most destructive to date.

Dynamic: US scrambling to produce consistent message to Mideast region

FROM FRONT PAGE

But as Iraq's other immediate neighbors—Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey—bolster their defenses, the new fighting threatens to unravel a byzantine balance of Mideast alliances and enmities that the United States long has sought to manage. The U.S. is deploying 300 special forces to train and advise the Iraqi army and is conducting surveillance flights. Iran is also flying surveillance drones over Iraq in aid of al-Maliki's government, and on Tuesday Syrian planes killed 17 people in a strike in Iraq's mainly Sunni Anbar province, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials.

American and Iranian officials have had some direct discussions on the matter, though the administration has ruled out the prospect of direct military cooperation or coordination with Iran.

However, amid widespread concern, notably among Sunni Arab states and Israel, about the convergence of U.S., Iranian and Syrian policies on the ISIL, President Barack Obama's national security team has scrambled to produce a consistent and coherent message to the region. Administration officials said intervention by Syria was not the way to stem the tide of extremists, who have taken control of several cities in north-



Fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant parade in a commandeered Iraqi security forces vehicle down a main road at the northern city of Mosul, Iraq, on Monday.

ern and western Iraq.

"We've made it clear to everyone in the region that we don't need anything to take place that might exacerbate the sectarian divisions that are already at a heightened level of tension," Secretary of State John Kerry said at

a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels. "It's already important that nothing take place that contributes to the extremism or could act as a flash point with respect to the sectarian divide."

At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest went further:

"The solution to the threat confronting Iraq is not the intervention of the Assad regime," he told reporters. "In fact, it's the Assad regime and the terrible violence that they perpetrated against their own people that allowed ISIL to thrive in the first

place. The solution to Iraq's security challenge does not involve militias or the murderous Assad regime, but the strengthening of the Iraqi security forces to combat threats."

Administration officials have said repeatedly that the only way to resolve the crisis is for Iraqi leaders to come together and form a truly inclusive and representative government in which all three of the country's main ethnic and religious groups—Sunni, Shiite and Kurd—have a voice.

Yet it remains unclear if al-Maliki is willing to allow such an administration to be formed, and as long as the crisis continues, Gulf Arab countries with their long and deep distrust of Iran in particular are watching Iraq with increasingly dire concern.

Underscoring the urgency, Kerry, who traveled to Baghdad and the Kurdish city of Erbil this week, was to meet in Paris on Thursday with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Israel, plus the prime minister of Lebanon, to try to ease their fears and to discuss how to attempt to coordinate a response. In another sign of how critical the situation has become, Kerry then will fly to Saudi Arabia on Friday to hold similar talks with King Abdullah.

IRAQ

Parliament to meet, mull new government

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
AND DIANA HADID
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's vice president called on parliament to convene on Tuesday, taking the first step toward forming a new government to present a united front against a rapidly advancing Sunni insurgency while Britain's top diplomat started an official visit to the country to urge the country's leaders to put their differences aside for the good of the nation.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's political bloc won the most seats in April 30 elections — with 92 seats out of the 328 — but he needs support from other blocs to govern with a majority. His efforts to form a coalition have been complicated by the current crisis as critics blame his failure to promote national reconciliation for the Sunni anger fueling the insurgent gains

and want him to step down.

Khudeiri al-Khuzai'a ordered the new parliament to hold its first session on Tuesday and to be chaired by the eldest member.

Constitutionally the next step would be to elect a speaker and two deputies, then within 30 days to choose a new president who in return has 15 days to ask the largest bloc to choose a prime minister and form the new government. The prime minister designate has 30 days to present his Cabinet to the parliament. An absolute majority is needed to approve a new government inside parliament.

Led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the insurgents quickly took over Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, in June 10 followed by Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and smaller communities in the northern Sunni heartland as government forces melted away. The latest onslaught poses a daunting challenge and

threatens to split the nation into warring Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish enclaves.

Al-Maliki has faced pressure, including from his longtime Shiite allies, to step down and form an interim government that could provide leadership until a more permanent solution can be found. He has insisted the constitutional process must be allowed to proceed.

Compounding the pressure, powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr made a televised statement in which he called for the formation of a unity government that would bring "new faces" representing all groups and steering the country away from the sectarian distribution of power.

Al-Sadr, whose followers fought fiercely against U.S. forces and Sunni extremists during past bloodshed that pushed the country to the brink of civil war, also vowed late Wednesday to "shake the ground" under

the feet of the ISIL, which has threatened to advance toward Baghdad and holy Shiite cities in the south.

The discovery in recent weeks of bodies of people killed and dumped on the streets also has raised the specter of the past sectarian warfare Iraqis had hoped was behind them.

On Thursday, authorities found eight men believed to be in their 30s and 40s who had been shot to death with bullet wounds in the head and chests in Mahmudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, police and hospital officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

The men had no ID cards with them, reminiscent of the past when Shiite and Sunni extremists would take the identification to dehumanize those killed or to use as trophies.

Ex-mayor tries to help Iraqi city — from US

By GREG JAFFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The last time Tal Afar fell to insurgents in the midst of the Iraq War, Mayor Najim Abed al-Jabouri was directing his troops from a 16th-century Ottoman castle in the center of his city. This time, he's stuck in a suburb about an hour south of Washington as he punches the code from a \$2 phone card into his cellphone, takes a drag on his cigarette and waits for the latest update from the battlefield.

"Hullooo," calls a faint voice from Iraq, one of Najim's former lieutenants.

"Where are they fighting?" Najim asks in Arabic, quickly before the line goes dead. "Where are they now?"

Here, tucked away in Woodbridge, Va., is one more legacy of America's long and suddenly resurgent war in Iraq, where on Wednesday the country's embattled prime minister rejected demands for an emergency national unity government and Sunni Muslim militants advanced on a major hydroelectric power plant.

Meanwhile, from the front porch of his home, an Iraqi businessman split-level with a rosebush that reminds him of Iraq, Najim spends his days working the phones, trying the best he can to keep one city together in a country that is under increasing siege. That was in 2006, before al-Qaida-affiliated insurgents blew up Najim's house; before Najim's own government accused him of being a Baathist; before an American general flew up to Tal Afar from Baghdad and told Najim it was time to take his family and flee the country.



NKKK KAHN/The Washington Post

Najim Abed al-Jabouri, former mayor of Tal Afar, Iraq, shares a meal with his daughter, Iman, at their home in Woodbridge, Va. Fearing for their safety, the al-Jabouri family moved to the U.S. in 2008.

Najim protested that he wasn't ready to go. "We may not have this opportunity in the future," he recalls the general saying.

So here he is now, the war that was supposed to be over flared up again. Cellphone in hand, the numbers of Tal Afar's tribal sheiks scribbled on a scrap of notebook paper that he keeps in his wallet. He tries to talk to them at least once a day. He asks if they are safe and urges them — Sunni and Shiite — not to turn on each other as they did the last time insurgents took over the city.

Amid all the bad news of the last few weeks, Najim says he's found some glimmers of hope. As fighters affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant closed in on Tal Afar, the city's Shiite sheiks told Najim that some of the Sunni leaders had helped them escape. Even though ISIL fighters control most of Tal Afar, Najim's former officers were reporting that a few dozen tribal

and government troops were still holding the ancient castle in the center of the city.

Nearly, Najim's daughter, a junior at George Mason University, checks Facebook on her cellphone and texts an Iraqi friend whose family recently fled to Serbia. Najim's eldest son attends Northern Virginia Community College. His youngest recently joined the U.S. Army and is stationed on the West Coast.

An American flag, the only one on his street, catches a faint summer breeze on Najim's front porch. He loves the United States, he says, even though he blames the U.S. government for wrecking his country. "They gave my home the worst leaders in the world," he says. "They destroyed the community."

And yet he believes the U.S. is the only country that can fix Iraq by forcing feuding Sunni and Shiite leaders in Baghdad to form a unity government that would

undermine support for the ISIL insurgency. "The terrorists are not strong," says Najim, a secular Sunni. "The price to save Iraq is very cheap. It's just talking."

Najim dials several of Tal Afar's tribal sheiks, but the calls won't go through. Sometimes a recording in English tells him that the number he's dialing isn't currently working. Other times the recorded voice is Arabic.

Eventually he reaches one of his former bodyguards in Tal Afar and peppers him with questions about the latest developments. After he says goodbye, he walks outside to smoke. It's late afternoon in Washington and close to 2 a.m. in Iraq — too late to make any more calls.

"I am very sad," he says. "But the relationships we built in Tal Afar have stayed strong." He tucks the scrap of paper with the sheiks' phone numbers back into his wallet. He'll try again to reach them tomorrow.

More advisers reach Baghdad

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. operations in Iraq have expanded with the arrival of more teams of advisers and the opening of a joint operations center in Baghdad, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Four additional teams of advisers with 50 special operations troops arrived in the city late Wednesday, raising the number of U.S. advisory teams in Iraq to six, with 90 members in total, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Thursday.

Another 90 American troops on Wednesday opened a joint operations center in Baghdad to help the Iraqi military confront the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, which has overrun vast swaths of northern Iraq and taken numerous cities.

The U.S. military is also planning a second joint operations center in northern Iraq, but when it will open and where it will be is uncertain, Warren said.

Assessment teams, which the Pentagon said were "enhanced" teams run by lieutenant colonels and featuring members with a variety of expertise, will spend two to three weeks assessing Iraqi military capabilities before delivering a report, Warren said.

The teams will initially observe Iraqi preparations to defend Baghdad from the oncoming insurgents and will later expand outward.

The U.S. operation is being overseen by Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard, who has been Commanded Forces Land Component Commander-Iraq. As of now, the mission has not been formally named, Warren said.

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NATION

Rep. Rangel, 84, survives primary challenge in NY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—After nearly half a century in office, Rep. Charles Rangel emerged from a bruising primary in his self-proclaimed last campaign squeaking to victory—and trumpeting it.

With 100 percent of the vote counted in unofficial results, Rangel led state Sen. Adriano Espaillat 47.4 percent to 43.6 percent, a difference of fewer than 2,000 votes.

While the official vote count in the Democratic primary won't begin until July 2, The Associated Press called Rangel the primary winner based on information Wednesday from the city Board of Elections on ballots cast that were not included in the election night tally. The number of absentee and provisional ballots was not sufficient for Espaillat to make up the difference.

"Fired up and ready to go!" Rangel declared in a statement, though Espaillat hasn't conceded, and his team has said it could mount a legal challenge. His campaign declined to comment Wednesday.

Rangel declared victory Tuesday night after a nearly hourlong session of what he called "sweating it out" with supporters—a sort of political variety hour, complete with stream-of-consciousness remarks, Q-and-A with advisers about the latest vote totals and tributes from supporters.

It was anything but an ordinary election night speech in an era of staying on-message.

But Rangel's unorthodox approach reflected the political persona he has developed in 22 terms and, perhaps, an 84-year-old lawmaker's desire to savor the moment as his campaigning days close, political experts say.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Accompanied by his wife, Alma Rangel, left, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., speaks Tuesday on primary election night in New York.

Boehner to sue Obama over executive orders

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, announced Wednesday that he intends to initiate a federal lawsuit seeking to declare President Barack Obama's executive orders an unconstitutional power grab by one branch of the government.

Boehner declined to spell out which actions would be addressed in the suit. Obama made an executive decision in 2012 not to deport children of illegal immigrants, and this month he issued an order to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions from power plants. Those executive orders came after the Republican-controlled House and the Democratic-controlled Senate deadlocked on those issues during the past few years, taking no action.

Republicans have argued that

the president does not have the authority to issue such orders given that Congress has not supported them.

"In my view, the president has not faithfully executed the law," Boehner told reporters at his weekly briefing.

Speaking to reporters before Boehner confirmed the plans for the lawsuit, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., labeled it "a subterfuge" meant to distract from other issues. At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest said the lawsuit fit with a congressional Republican plan of obstructing the president's agenda.

"The fact that they are considering a taxpayer-funded lawsuit against the president of the United States for doing his job is the kind of step that most Americans wouldn't support," he said.



RIP STELL, (OKLAHOMA CITY) JOURNAL RECORD/AP

Tea party-backed U.S. Senate candidate T.W. Shannon speaks Tuesday in Tulsa, Okla.

Tea party cash, influence still grow despite losses

By CHARLES BABINGTON
AND PHILIP ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Desperate to knock off GOP incumbents in this year's Republican primaries, the nation's tea party groups have spent millions only to fall short in election after election.

Yet for all the losses, from Matt Bevin in Kentucky to Chris McDaniel in Mississippi, business for the tea party has never been better.

The lack of success at the ballot hasn't kept the groups from raising huge sums of money, adding names to their mailing lists and recruiting new volunteers. At the same time, they continue to pull the Republican Party to the right. GOP lawmakers who previously compromised with Democrats on spending, among other issues, now refuse to budge—even if it means shutting down the government and risking a default on the nation's debt.

Those facts are frustrating mainstream Republicans, who on Wednesday implored tea party activists to rethink the money they are giving to anti-establishment groups such as Club for Growth, FreedomWorks and the Senate Conservatives Fund. All three backed the failed bid of McDaniel, a Mississippi state senator, to oust U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran after six terms in office.

"How much money did we spend in Mississippi that could have been spent picking up the majority?" asked South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who had to beat back six

challengers in his own primary earlier this month.

Republicans need to gain six seats in the midterm elections to take control of the Senate for the final two years of President Barack Obama's second term, a feat that's within reach in a year when many Democratic incumbents face dire poll numbers and are being vastly outpaced by outside conservative groups.

"I hope people will think about that," Graham told reporters in Washington.

But before the tea party groups turn their full attention to Democrats and the general election in November, they are in the midst of spending a staggering amount of money in the GOP primaries to benefit insurgent conservatives against GOP incumbents.

Tea party-aligned groups spent almost \$7.2 million on McDaniel's failed bid to deny Cochran a seventh term in the Senate. The anti-tax Club for Growth and its affiliated PAC were the largest outside spenders in Mississippi, spending more than \$3.1 million to help McDaniel. Of that, \$2.4 million went to messages attacking Cochran.

The same night that McDaniel came up short, they saw their \$1.8 million effort to help former state House Speaker T.W. Shannon's Senate primary campaign against Rep. James Lankford fall apart in Oklahoma. Last month, tea party groups and their allies spent roughly \$1 million to support Bevin's uphill effort against Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in Kentucky.

In all, national tea party-

aligned groups that must disclose their finances have raised almost \$42 million since January 2013. They have spent more than \$40 million but have no real wins. Mainstream Republican Senate candidates brushed aside tea party-backed candidates in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Colorado and other states.

The eye-popping win for college professor David Brat over House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in Virginia's GOP primary doesn't count. That took nearly everyone by surprise, including the national tea party groups that gave Brat help measured by the hundreds, not the millions, of dollars.

But Brat's win likely energized tea party supporters' hopes in Mississippi, where McDaniel initially beat Cochran in the state's primary but failed to win the outright majority required to avoid a runoff. Undeterred by how that runoff ended, they are now looking ahead to support anti-establishment candidates in Tennessee, Kansas and Alaska.

Even without a big-time win this year, the 5-year-old tea party movement can unquestionably claim credit for accelerating a rightward drift among congressional Republicans.

For 17 years, for example, GOP legislative leaders had compromised with Democrats to reach tax-and-spending accords to keep the government funded. But after seeing some colleagues lose, or nearly lose, to tea party insurgents in GOP primaries in 2010 and 2012, many House Republicans refused to go along with a 2013 budget deal.

NATION

Court won't reinstate NYC's big-soda ban

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York state's highest court refused to reinstate New York City's ban on the sale of big sodas, ruling that the city's health department overstepped its bounds when it approved a cap on sugary beverages.

The unprecedented ban was championed by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his successor, Mayor Bill de Blasio, who vowed to fight a lower court's decision to overturn it while campaigning last year.

The court largely ignored the merits of the ban on the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces. In a 20-page ruling, it determined the city's Board of Health engaged in policy-making, and not simply health regulations, when it imposed the restrictions on restaurants, delis, movie theaters, stadiums and street cart vendors.

Man dies minutes after being sentenced to jail

CLEVELAND — Authorities in Cleveland say a man collapsed and died outside a courtroom minutes after a judge sentenced him to 60 days in jail for trying to restrain and kiss a 14-year-old girl.

The coroner's office was expected to determine why Miguel Aybar, 51, died Wednesday morning.

The Northeast Ohio Media Group reported that Aybar was in handcuffs when he slumped to the floor in the hallway outside the courtroom.

FAA eyes lower limit in building height rules

WASHINGTON — The government wants to dramatically reduce the allowable height of buildings near hundreds of airports — a proposal that is drawing fire from real estate developers and members of Congress who say it will reduce property values.

The Federal Aviation Administration proposal, supported by airports and airlines, is driven by encroaching development that limits safe flight paths for planes that might lose power in engines during takeoff. Planes can fly with only one engine, but they have less power to climb quickly over obstacles.

Tycoon's lunch treat riles NYC homeless

NEW YORK — A Chinese tycoon's effort to treat hundreds of homeless New Yorkers to a fancy lunch in Central Park fell apart, with people booing, yelling and cursing when they found out he wasn't giving them cash.

Recycling magnate Chen Guangbiao, known for his eccentric gestures, selected a menu Wednesday of sesame-seed-encrusted tuna, beef fillet and berries with creme fraiche for the residents of the oldest homeless shelter in the country. He regaled his 250 guests by singing "We are the World" and performed magic tricks at the event.

From The Associated Press

Chicago OKs strict gun sale laws

By JAMES QUEALLY
Los Angeles Times

The Chicago City Council unanimously approved an ordinance this week that would place strict limits on gun stores, forcing them to video-record sales, and would restrict gun buyers to one purchase a month in a city plagued with violence.

Pat Corcoran, a spokesman for the city clerk's office, told the Los Angeles Times that the ordinance, proposed last month, passed 48-0 on Tuesday. Two aldermen were absent.

The new ordinance, once signed by the mayor, replaces a citywide ban on gun sales that was ruled illegal by a federal judge in January.

The new legislation allows gun sales in only a small percentage of the city and will force gun shop employees to pass background checks and to learn how to spot and stop "straw purchasers," gun buyers who purchase weapons on behalf of someone else, generally someone who is ineligible to own a firearm.

The ordinance also bans sales at gun shows within the city limits.

Chicago consistently has been one of the country's most violent cities, with an annual homicide total leaping from 431 in 2011 to 500 in 2012, according to Uniform Crime Reports. The city suffered 440 homicides in 2013, and has seen 174 killings already in 2014, according to The Chicago Tribune.

A report released by Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office last month said nearly 20 percent of the firearms used in city crimes were purchased from four gun shops just outside Chicago.

The ordinance drew sharp criticism from local gun-rights

advocates, many of whom have long bristled at the city's ban on gun sales and were hoping to see the new legislation loosen those restrictions.

"Nothing that the City Council has on the books is going to stop illegal gun use, and I don't know when the good citizens of Chicago are going to understand this," said Don Haworth, owner of Chicagoland Detective Services and Chicagoland Firearms Training. "We can pass every law in the world, but every law will not prevent the type of shootings that are occurring."



KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL, DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP

Charlie Bothuell IV becomes emotional Wednesday after arriving home after the Detroit Police Department found his missing son, Charlie Bothuell V, in the basement of his home in Detroit.

Missing Detroit boy found alive in father's basement

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A 12-year-old boy who had been missing for a week and a half and was the subject of an extensive police search was found alive and well Wednesday in the basement of his home.

Officers discovered the boy while serving a search warrant on the home as part of their investigation into his disappearance. It's not clear if the boy had been there the entire time. Officers had been inside the home before and cadaver dogs searched the house last week.

Detroit Police Chief James Craig said that when police found Charlie Bothuell V, he appeared to be hiding and did not announce himself. Hours earlier, Craig had told reporters that investigators were "not ruling out the possibil-

ity of homicide" in the case.

When police found the boy, he was behind some boxes and a large plastic drum. Bedding also was found nearby. The boy will be medically evaluated.

"He was nervous, but excited," Craig said. "He indicated he was hungry. He appeared fine."

The boy lives in the home with his father and stepmother. The father, Charlie Bothuell IV, said he was as surprised as anyone that his son was in the basement. "I'm shocked. I looked. The Detroit police looked. The FBI looked," he said. "To imply that I knew my son was in the basement is absurd."

The elder Bothuell was swarmed by reporters outside the house when he arrived home Wednesday evening.

"I thought my son was dead,"



Courtesy of the Detroit Police Department

Charlie Bothuell V, 12, was found alive in his father's basement while Detroit police officers were serving a search warrant at the home.

he said as he broke down in tears and hugged a reporter.

Craig told reporters earlier Wednesday that the boy's father had taken a polygraph test about his son's disappearance, but the boy's stepmother declined to do so.

Same-sex marriage edges nearer high court

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
AND BRADY MCCOMBS
The Associated Press

DENVER — The first ruling by a federal appeals court that states cannot prevent gay couples from marrying makes it more likely the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately have to make a decision it has so far avoided: whether states have the ability to prohibit same-sex marriage.

The court danced around that question precisely one year ago when it issued a pair of rulings on gay marriage. The high court's caution was evident in its rulings. It upheld a decision striking down California's gay marriage ban but relied on technicalities rather than finding a national right for same-sex couples to marry. Then it struck down parts of the Clinton-era federal Defense of Marriage Act, finding same-sex marriages from states where the practice was legal must be recognized.

That decision triggered an avalanche of 17 straight court decisions upholding the rights of gays to marry, including Wednesday's 2-1 ruling in Denver from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, the highest court to weigh in since the Supreme Court. Utah, whose gay marriage ban was struck down in the decision, is considering an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Same-sex marriage is now legal in 19 states and the Washington capital district, and recent polls show a majority of Americans support it.

"This tees it up for possible Supreme Court review," said William Eskridge, a law professor at Yale University. "When a federal appeals court strikes down a major state law, there is a lot more pressure for the justices to take that."

The soonest a case could be decided is 2015, but often the Supreme Court waits for a split in appellate courts before considering an issue.

WORLD

Prominent female activist killed in Libya

CAIRO — One of Libya's most prominent female activists was assassinated in the restive eastern city of Benghazi when gunmen stormed her house, state news agency reported Thursday.

Salma Bugaighis, a lawyer and rights activist, was at the forefront in the 2011 uprising against dictator Moammar Gadhafi and was also among the most vocal and outspoken activists against militiamen and Islamic extremists who have run rampant in the country since Gadhafi's fall.

Islamic radical militias, however, have been blamed for frequent assassinations of secular activists, judges, moderate clerics, policemen, soldiers in Benghazi, Libya's second largest city.

Lebanon: Beirut hotel bomber is Saudi citizen

BEIRUT — A suicide bomber, who blew himself up at a Beirut hotel and his accomplice who survived the blast, are citizens of Saudi Arabia, Lebanese officials said Thursday.

The bomber detonated his explosives at Beirut's Duroy Hotel during a security raid on Wednesday evening, and died in the blast. Another man was wounded and was being questioned by security agents at a Beirut hospital.

A security and a judicial official told The Associated Press that a preliminary probe shows the two attackers entered Lebanon with Saudi passports on June 11. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to talk to the media during an ongoing investigation.

Al-Qaida fighters attack airport in south Yemen

SANAA, Yemen — Yemeni security officials say al-Qaida militants have attacked an airport in the country's south and bombed the facility's air control tower.

The officials say the coordinated attack on the Sayoun airport in the southern province of Hadramawt started from three different directions early on Thursday.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to media. There were no immediate details on casualties.

The attack came just hours after security forces arrested a number of suspected militants in the same town, known for a strong presence of al-Qaida militants.

Search for missing plane shifts south

SYDNEY — Investigators looking into the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines plane are confident it was on autopilot when it crashed in a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean, Australian officials said Thursday as they announced the latest shift in their search.

After analyzing data exchanged between the plane and a satellite, officials believe Flight 370 was on autopilot the entire time it was flying across a vast expanse of the southern Indian Ocean, based on the stry force path it took. Australian Transport Safety Bureau chief commissioner Martin Dolan said.

From The Associated Press



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Philippine Navy sailors watch the opening ceremony of the 20th Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training joint U.S.-Philippines naval exercise on Thursday at the former U.S. naval base of Subic, about 70 miles west of Manila, Philippines.

US to disband terrorism task force in Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — After more than a decade of helping fight Islamic militants, the United States is disbanding an anti-terror contingent of hundreds of elite American troops in the southern Philippines where armed groups such as Abu Sayyaf have largely been crippled, officials said Thursday.

But special forces from the U.S. Pacific Command, possibly in smaller numbers, will remain after the deactivation of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTF-P), to ensure al-Qaida offshoots such as Abu Sayyaf and the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah do not regain lost ground, according to U.S. and Philippine officials.

The move marks a new chapter in the long-running battle against an al-Qaida-inspired movement in the southern Philippines, viewed by the U.S. as a key front in the global effort to keep terrorists at bay.

It reflects shifting security strategies and focus in economically vibrant Asia, where new concerns such as multiple territorial conflicts involving China have alarmed Washington's allies entangled in the disputes.

Although U.S. forces are barred by the Philippine Constitution from engaging in combat, the advice, training, military equipment and intelligence, including drone surveillance, that they provided helped the underfunded Philippine military beat back the Abu Sayyaf. U.S.-backed Philippine offensives whittled the militants' ranks from a few thousand fighters — mostly drawn from desperately poor hinterland villages — to about 300 gunmen, who survive on extortion and kidnappings for ransom while dodging military assaults.

"Our partnership with the Philippine security forces has been successful in drastically reducing the capabilities of domestic and transnational terrorist groups in the Philippines," U.S. Embassy Press Attache Kurt Hoyer said

in a written response to questions sent by email by The Associated Press.

That success has led U.S. military planners in coordination with their Philippine counterparts "to begin working on a transition plan where the JSOTF-P as a task force will no longer exist," Hoyer said, adding there were currently about 320 American military personnel left in the south.

Before the drawdown, about 500 to 600 Americans had been deployed there.

Hoyer said a still-unspecified number of U.S. military personnel would remain under a new unit called the PACOM Augmentation Team to provide Filipino forces with counterterrorism and combat training and advice, and "ensure that violent extremist organizations don't regain a foothold in the southern Philippines."

He suggested the remaining American staff would move away from training exercises to working with Philippine security forces at unified commands and headquarters units.

Ukraine to Russia: Support a peace plan

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Thursday called on Russia to support his peace plan "with deeds, not words" as a weeklong cease-fire between government troops and pro-Russian rebels is set to expire late Friday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said they too were looking for more action from Russia ahead of a summit on Friday of European Union leaders who will be reviewing their sanctions against Moscow.

More than 300 people have been killed in eastern Ukraine in the past weeks as pro-Russian insurgents fought with government forces. Ukraine last Friday announced a unilateral cease-fire with the rebels. Some rebel groups said they would observe the cease-fire as well.

Even so, 18 government troops have been killed this week, Poroshenko said.

Speaking at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on Thursday, Poroshenko called for Moscow to support his peace plan with deeds and, specifically, prevent armed separatists from crossing the Russian border into Ukraine.

"Without that, we cannot talk about peace," Poroshenko said. "Do support the peace plan with deeds, not words, because with these deeds we will stop the killing of civilians and the military who defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state."

Kerry, speaking in Paris, said "it is critical for Russia to show in the next hours, literally, that they're moving to help disarm the separatists, to encourage them to disarm."

EU leaders will be meeting Thursday evening in Ypres and Friday in Brussels, and will weigh the need to impose new sanctions on Russia over its actions in Ukraine. EU officials have said tougher economic sanctions have been prepared and are ready for use.

Seoul: North Korea fires 3 short-range projectiles

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired three short-range projectiles Thursday into the waters off its east coast in a possible move to stoke tensions with Seoul, a South Korean defense official said. Pyongyang's military later criticized alleged South Korean shelling in disputed waters.

The South Korean official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of department rules, said the projectiles flew about 120 miles before harmlessly landing in the water.

The projectiles were fired from North Korea's eastern port city of Wonsan, and the South Korean military was investigating the

type of projectiles and the North's intentions, the official said.

Later Thursday, North Korea's army, while not mentioning its own projectiles, released a statement in state media saying South Korea had fired shells without notice into the North's waters from a front-line island near the Yellow Sea boundary that Pyongyang bitterly disputes.

The North Korean army in the front-line area is "full of the strong will of retaliation to punish the provocateurs to the last one by giving vent to their pent-up grudge," the statement said. "What they are waiting for is only the order to be given."

Short-range test firings by North Korea aren't unusual, but a barrage of missile and artillery tests earlier this year boosted animosity between the rivals. A North Korean artillery attack in 2010 killed four South Koreans on a front-line Yellow Sea island.

On Wednesday, an unidentified spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned the U.S. government that if it didn't block the release of a new American comedy about a plot to assassinate leader Kim Jong Un, it would be an "act of war."

He didn't mention the movie by name but was clearly referring to "The Interview," which stars Seth Rogen and James Franco.

FAITH



PHOTOS BY ALLEN J. SCHABEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

The congregation exercises in their seats during a rally for pastor Rick Warren's "Daniel Plan" at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. The rally was designed to prompt people to employ his diet and fitness program.

The book of Daniel

Pastor Rick Warren, other church leaders, pushing physical fitness

BY MARY MACVEAN
Los Angeles Times

When Jim Black leads people on a robust walk three times a week on the grounds of the 120-acre Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., he's got powerful company: God.

The several dozen people who join him have shown up with the same hopes that anyone brings to an exercise plan. They mean to lose weight, ditch inhalers, get stronger.

But at Saddleback, there's a lot more going on. Pastor Rick Warren is using the power of his church, one of the biggest in the country, to impress upon his followers that their bodies need the same care as their spirits.

After two months on "the Daniel Plan," Black gave up his diabetes medication. He has given up wheat, dairy and sugar. He recently bought a bicycle. In a year, he lost 90 pounds; his wife lost 40.

"It's that one scripture: My body is not my own, my body is on loan and someday I'll have to account for it," said Black, 48. "I wanted to serve God at a higher level. And I wanted to be able to fit in the seat of a roller coaster and buy one seat on the airplane instead of two."

Despite a multibillion-dollar industry of programs and books and diet meals and meetings, the secular world has done a fairly lousy job at getting people to lose

weight and get fit. So why not turn to a higher power?

One Sunday afternoon, 3,000 people came to a rally at Saddleback to hear about the Daniel Plan from Warren and others, including two of its creators, Daniel Amen, a psychiatrist who belongs to Saddleback, and Dr. Mark Hyman, who has taken care of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

"If Jesus came to dinner, what would you feed him?" Hyman asked the crowd.

"Would you give him a Big Mac, fries and a Coke? Would you feed him all the junk that we feed ourselves and our guests when they come to dinner? Or would you eat real food?"

'The secret sauce is faith, friends and focus.'

Pastor Rick Warren

Places of worship may call to mind ice cream socials or groaning tables of fried chicken and potato salad more than they do workouts, but Warren is the latest in a long line of people of faith connecting mind, body and spirit. After all, gluttony is one of the seven deadly sins.

They include the 19th-Century health reformer Sylvester Graham and, later, the Seventh-day Adventist Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. More recently, fundamentalist C.S. Lewis's "Help Lord—the Devil Wants Me Fat!" sold close



to 100,000 copies in two years after its release in 1977. Other books have included "More of Jesus, Less of Me" and "Slim for Him." And Warren is not alone in using as inspiration the story of the prophet Daniel, who rejected the rich food and wine of King Nebuchadnezzar.

"Millions of American Christians have made a religious duty out of diet," R. Marie Griffith writes in her 2004 book "Born Again Bodies."

"Fit bodies ostensibly signify fitter souls," she said by phone. Warren has an opportunity to change lives, Griffith said.

"Because of his name and his fame and how beloved and admired he is, his could really have a bigger impact."

Dee Eastman, director of the Daniel Plan, said she doesn't look at it as a diet plan.

"Ultimately, we try to look toward getting balance in health overall. And we think food plays a huge role in that," she said. "This is going to sound extreme, but if you can cut out the white menaces—white flour and white sugar—your palate changes and your cravings stop. You can actually start loving foods that love you back."



"Daniel Plan" team members Daniel Amen, left, and Dr. Mark Hyman exercise in their seats during the rally in Lake Forest.

Warren traces his inspiration for the plan to the day in 2010 that he baptized 827 adults and calculated that he'd lifted more than 145,000 pounds. Not only were most of those believers overweight, Warren thought, "But I'm fat too! I'm as out of shape as everyone else is!"

In a pilot rollout of the Daniel Plan, more than 15,000 people lost a collective quarter-million pounds in a year, the church said. Plans are underway for a long-term tracking program for the plan, Eastman said.

"Is this something new? No," Warren said. "For 2,000 years, the church has been caring for the sick."

Warren's plan has five components: food, fitness, focus, faith

and friends. There's a book, journal, apps and a cookbook, as well as meetings and programs at the church and online.

"It's not just what we eat, it's what eats us. There's an emotional and spiritual issue we ignore," Warren said by telephone. "The secret sauce is faith, friends and focus."

Much of the advice is straightforward: "Simple, real, fresh, delicious, nutrient-packed foods," plenty of exercise, getting help from friends. All of it built on a foundation of faith.

The Daniel Plan even quotes James Beard as it advises followers to eat unprocessed food, to learn to cook and to explore new foods like goji berries, enoki mushrooms and seaweed.

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WORLD

New face of crime fighting

In a dramatic change to Pakistan societal thinking, women take leading roles over local police forces

By ADIL JAWAD
The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Just days into her job running a police station in Pakistan's largest city, Syeda Ghazala had to put her training to the test. She opened fire with her .22-caliber pistol at a man who shot at police when they tried to pull him over during a routine traffic stop.

It's not clear whether it was Ghazala's shots that wounded the man before he was arrested, but as the first woman to run a police station in Pakistan's often violent port city of Karachi, she'll likely have many more chances to hit her mark.

When Ghazala joined the police force two decades ago, she never dreamed that one day she would head a police station staffed by roughly 100 police officers — all men. Her recent promotion is part of efforts by the local police to increase the number of women in the force and in positions of authority. Shortly after she assumed her new job the city appointed a

second woman to head another police station.

In a country where women have traditionally not worked outside the home and face widespread discrimination, the appointments represent a significant step for women's empowerment.

"The mindset of people is changing gradually, and now they (have) started to consider women in leading roles," said the 44-year-old mother of four. "My husband opposed my decision to join the police force 20 years ago."

By the time this job rolled around, he had come full circle and encouraged her to go for it. "It was a big challenge," she said. "I was a little bit hesitant to accept it."

The station house is in Clifton, a posh area home to the elite of this sprawling metropolis of more than 18 million people. But in a city prone to family feuds, political unrest and jihadist violence — where 166 officers were killed in the line of duty last year — it's by no means an easy assignment. Crimes ranging from petty theft

and muggings to terrorism or murder are all part of a day's work, Ghazala said.

Running a station is a high-profile job in the Pakistani police, one that requires the officer to constantly interact with the public and fellow officers. It's also a key path to advancement. Senior police officer Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said he and others in the top brass hope Ghazala's appointment leads to more women joining the force.

"Our society accepts only stereotype roles for women," he said. "There is a perception that women are suitable only for particular professions like teaching."

The police force is also training the first group of female commandos, 44 women going through a physically intensive course involving rappelling from towers or helicopters and shooting an assortment of weapons.

Currently, the two in Karachi are the only women running police stations in Pakistan. In the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where women



PHOTOS BY SHAKIL ADIL/AP

Pakistani police officer Syeda Ghazala prepares to patrol in Karachi, Pakistan. Ghazala worked for the police for 20 years before recently being promoted to the head of the station.

make up less than 1 percent of the roughly 75,000-member police force, women run only stations specifically designed to help female crime victims.

In the southeastern Baluchistan province, there are only 90 women on the police force and no female station heads. In Punjab province, only one woman has ever run a station house, back in 2005, but currently no women

hold the position.

Ghazala said that during her career she's had only a few instances where she's felt discrimination. When she got the highest marks in a training course required for promotion, some of the men objected, saying that in Islam women couldn't lead men.

She said the commander simply told the men they should have gotten better grades.



Pakistani police commandos participate in a training session in Karachi, Pakistan. There are 44 women going through commando training in Pakistan.

WORLD



Above: A sex worker checks her smartphone as she and others wait for customers in a brothel at the "Dolly" prostitution complex in Surabaya, Indonesia. Right: A female security officer stands guard as sex workers who agreed to leave the complex queue up to register for compensation money from the city government

PHOTOS BY DITA ALANGKARA/AP



A "karaoke girl" shouts "Dolly will stay open," in protest against the city government's move to close down the prostitution complex.

Lights out

Indonesian prostitutes protest mayor's decision to close biggest red-light district

The Associated Press

SURABAYA, Indonesia — The mayor of Indonesia's second-largest city has officially shut down "Dolly," one of Southeast Asia's biggest red-light districts, but the world's oldest profession is still working despite warnings to stop.

Dolly — believed to have been named years ago after a colonial Dutch madam — was supposed to have closed June 18, but on the main drag, young women in skintight miniskirts and heels continue to lure guests into rooms lit only by faint red and pink lights.

Surabaya's reformist mayor, Tri Rismaharini, has vowed to shutter the area, and the government is offering \$425 to each of the estimated 1,500 sex workers to help

them get out of the business.

Rismaharini plans to ease the women out of the work, and gave them until Monday to collect the money.

But the sex workers, pimps and local business owners have taken to the streets in protest, saying the city is offering too little compensation for yanking them away from their livelihoods.

Prostitution rings operate openly in all major Indonesian cities despite opposition from Islamic conservatives, some of whom want to replace the country's secular system with one bound by Islamic law.

Rismaharini, the first female mayor of Surabaya, has pledged to shut down all brothels in the city.

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FACES



CBS/MCT

Author Stephen King wrote the premiere episode of the second season of "Under the Dome" — and will also make a cameo appearance as well. "I knew that George R.R. Martin had written a few episodes of 'Game of Thrones,' and I was very jealous," King, 66, said from the North Carolina set of the popular series about a small town trapped beneath an impenetrable dome.

King of the dome

Author writes, appears in second-season premiere of TV drama

BY MEREDITH BLAKE
Los Angeles Times

When asked how he came to write the Season 2 premiere of "Under the Dome," the television adaptation of his 2009 sci-fi novel that returns to CBS on July 1, Stephen King is refreshingly candid. "I knew that George R.R. Martin had written a few episodes of 'Game of Thrones,' and I was very jealous," said the prolific author, 66, via telephone from the North Carolina set of "Under the Dome."

The series, which follows the inhabitants of the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine, after it is suddenly cut off from the rest of the world by an invisible but impenetrable dome, became the most-watched new program on broadcast television last year, despite airing in what was once thought of as the dead zone of summer.

King, whose novels, novellas and short stories have been made into films and TV series dozens of times with varying degrees of success, is not especially territorial when it comes to his work. "It's a no-lose situation," he said. "If it's good, I just say it was based on my work. If it's bad, I just say, 'Well, that wasn't my idea.'"

Despite his laissez-faire attitude, King relished the opportunity to tinker with an adaptation of his own work. "It gave me a chance to set the arc in motion for the season," he said between mouthfuls of pizza, "and it gave me a little more input into what was going to happen."

"We thought this would be a great way to solidify the support of the fans but



CBS

Britt Robertson, left, Colin Ford and Mackenzie Lintz star on "Under the Dome." The second season of the TV series returns July 1 on AFN-Prime.

also put his creativity and imagination to work," show runner Neal Baer said. "Stephen is very supportive and collaborative and has always said to us from the beginning, 'It's your baby.'"

While in his freshman outing, "Under the Dome" focused on the revelation of long-buried personal secrets, the season ahead will feature strong environmental themes, Baer said, as the residents of Chester's Mill fight "pestilence and plague" resulting from their poor stewardship of the land.

"For me, the most interesting idea is this Malthusian concept that there's too many people and too little space, there's starting to be this talk about euthanasia and thinning of the herd, and that's a scary idea," said King, who will also make a cameo in the season premiere. "In a fantasy series,

you have a chance to tackle some of these hot-button issues, and people will accept it, because it's only make-believe."

This foray into screenwriting is but the latest creative adventure for the intensely productive author, who will also release two books in 2014: "Mr. Mercedes," a suspense novel published this month, and "Revival," due out in November and which King describes as a "scary, dark piece of work" in a similar vein to "Pet Sematary."

Given the sheer volume of writing he's generated over the years — more than 50 novels, hundreds of short stories and a dozen or so screen- and teleplays — it's not surprising to learn that King is a creature of habit, especially when he's home in Bangor, Maine, where he lives with his wife, Tabitha.

"Most writers have a ritual that would look strange from the outside," he said, adding that he begins each morning with a three-mile walk "to open up my head and think a little bit," followed by a pot of tea. After that, he settles down to write from about 8:30 a.m. until shortly after noon, with a goal of completing six pages a day. At this rate, working seven days a week, he can complete a draft of a novel in four to six months.

That's not to say that King lives free of the self-doubt that afflicts most, if not all, writers. In fact, he's currently a "mess" over the troublesome third act of an upcoming book.

"I don't usually plot in advance, the book usually tells me what to do, but I'm getting to the point where there's a lot of mist ahead and I just sort of hope things work out," he said. "They usually do."

NBC: Jillian Michaels not returning to 'Biggest Loser'

Jillian Michaels is exiting "The Biggest Loser," NBC and the producer of the weight-loss competition series said Wednesday.

In a statement, the network and production company Shine America said they and trainer Michaels have decided to part ways, and she won't be back on "Biggest Loser" this fall.

This is the third time that Michaels, known for her tough, drill-sergeant approach to working with contestants as they shed pounds, has left the series. Asked if she might return again, a production company spokesman said the focus was on the upcoming season, No. 16. There was no immediate response Wednesday from Michaels' representative to an email request.

Michaels' replacement on "The Biggest Loser" was not announced.

Actor Eli Wallach dies

Eli Wallach, the raspy-voiced character actor who starred in dozens of movies and Broadway plays over a remarkable and enduring career, has died.

He was 98. The actor's son, Peter Wallach, confirmed Wednesday that his father died Tuesday evening in New York from natural causes.

"The best way to honor him is to put on one of his movies," he said. "Put on 'Baby Doll' or 'Magnificent Seven.' Those live forever."

Wallach and his wife, Anne Jackson, were a formidable duo on the stage, appearing in several plays dating back to the 1940s. He won a Tony Award for his supporting role in Tennessee Williams' "The Rose Tattoo" in 1951, and was still starring in films well into his 90s. But Wallach may be best remembered for his role as Tuco in "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."



Wallach

Plea deal talks fall apart

Attorneys for singer Chris Brown and prosecutors have been unable to reach a plea agreement in his assault case in Washington, D.C.

Prosecutor Kevin Chambers said Wednesday they offered a deal for Brown to plead guilty to simple assault and time served. But the award-winning singer's attorney, Mark Geragos, says defense lawyers and prosecutors couldn't agree on a statement of facts about what happened in October outside the W hotel. A fan says Brown hit him after he tried to get in a photograph of the singer was taking with two women. At the time of his arrest, Brown was on probation.

Brown was in court Wednesday. His trial was scheduled for Sept. 8.

Other news

■ The addition of Star Wars creator George Lucas' museum of art and movie memorabilia to Chicago will give the city a museum campus as impressive as the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday. Lucas announced a day earlier that he had picked Chicago for his museum. The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art will be within walking distance of the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium and the Shedd Aquarium along Lake Michigan.

■ The director of the Alaska State Troopers, Col. James Cockrell, left Alaska Department of Public Safety employees know the state has decided not to participate in another season of "Alaska State Troopers," which airs on the National Geographic Channel, agency spokeswoman Beth Ipsen said Wednesday. Filming will conclude June 30, Cockrell said.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man injured making fireworks at home

MI PORTAGE — Authorities said a 50-year-old man was injured in an explosion while trying to make fireworks at his home in southwestern Michigan.

The Kalamazoo Gazette reported officers were called around 10:15 p.m. Tuesday to the home in Portage. Public safety officer Lt. John Blue said a suspected methamphetamine lab also was found at the scene, but that's being investigated separately.

Battalion Chief Rick Palmer said there was a "huge explosion" at the home. He said the man apparently was attempting to use raw explosives to make fireworks in his kitchen. The man was burned, but details on the extent of his injuries were not available.

Windows were blown out on the home, about 55 miles south of Grand Rapids, and it appeared that the garage also sustained damage.

Man with knife in back walks into McDonald's

NY NEW YORK — New York City police said a man has been treated for a non-life-threatening injury after walking into a McDonald's fast food restaurant with a kitchen knife still stuck in his back.

Officers responded to Jamaica, Queens, about 10 a.m. Tuesday after receiving 911 calls from inside the restaurant.

The New York Post reported that the victim was stabbed in the vicinity after getting into an argument with a group of men.

Witnesses told the Post that the man was chatting on his cellphone and appeared composed despite the knife in his back.

There have been no arrests.

Suburb bans free libraries in yards

KS LEAWOOD — A widespread trend of sharing books through small homemade structures has been shut down in a Kansas City suburb.

However, Leawood officials say they will reconsider the decision to tell a 9-year-old boy to remove his "Little Free Library" from his family's front yard.

Spencer Collins and his family erected a little blue box on red stilts on Mother's Day, asking for people to read and share books for free. The small libraries are springing up around the world.

Leawood officials said the family had to take the library down because it violates a city ordinance. The city said Collins' neighbors complained about the library.

The Kansas City Star reported the Collins family will ask the Leawood City Council next month to reconsider the ordinance.

Man accused of stealing 'Star Wars' memorabilia

CA RIVERSIDE — Police in California are looking for the rightful owner of some valuable "Star Wars" memora-

THE CENSUS

300K

The number of visitors to the Sept. 11 museum in New York since it opened a little more than a month ago, exceeding expectations, officials said. Organizers see it as a strong start for the ground zero museum, which had faced questions about its \$24 ticket price. The attendance has topped projections by about 5 percent since the institution opened to the public May 21 and to 9/11 survivors and victims' relatives six days earlier, museum President Joe Daniels said. The museum includes profiles of the nearly 3,000 victims, recordings of survivors telling their stories, and artifacts ranging from a giant trade center column to shoes shed as people fled the burning towers.



KEITH SHRAOG/AP

Wheeling toward a record

Spectators line the Roberto Clemente Bridge in Pittsburgh as a portion of a group of what promoters said was approximately 700 participants perform simultaneous cartwheels in their successful effort in breaking the official record of 482 on Monday. The event was held to promote the 2014 P&G Gymnastics Championships to be held in late August in Pittsburgh and to celebrate Olympic Day.

bilias after deciding the man who was carrying the items had succumbed to the dark side.

Riverside police Detective Adam Levesque said Monday that members of a police gang unit discovered the "Star Wars" poster, collector cards and other memorabilia after they approached the man downtown.

Levesque told the Riverside Press-Enterprise that the man said he had "found" the items, but the Jedi mind trick didn't work. Detectives thought the story wasn't credible and only aroused further suspicion.

Police didn't say how much the collectibles are worth, but they're asking the owner to come forward.

The name of the suspected thief wasn't released, and police have not announced any arrests or charges.

City extends talks on park name change

NM TAOS — Taos residents will have another opportunity to weigh in on changing the name of Kit Carson Park.

The Albuquerque Journal reported that Taos Mayor Daniel Barrone said Tuesday that the proposal would be addressed again July 8.

Council member Andrew Gonzalez said he regrets voting earlier this month to change the park's name to Red Willow Park. He said he should have waited to hear more opinions.

The council voted 3-1 for the name change after hearing from Indian American activists.

Carson, who died in 1868, is known as a scout and explorer. But 200 Navajo people died after he marched 8,000 of them on what

is known as the "Long Walk."

Police: Thief ID'd by shoe left behind

FL PALM BEACH GARDENS — It wasn't your typical Cinderella story. But in the end the shoe fit and Tyrell Copper found himself in jail.

Police said Copper, 29, and another man went into a Palm Beach Gardens Home Depot store on Tuesday and tried to take two bags of weed killer without paying.

The Palm Beach Post reported someone attempted to stop the pair but Copper ran to a getaway car. The problem? He ran right out of his shoe, which was left behind in the store.

Police spotted the car and pulled it over outside a Lowe's store. When police asked the occupants to get out, they noticed Copper was missing his right Nike shoe. The missing shoe matched

the one found at the store.

Bike-riding newspaper carrier dies at 90

IL CHRISTOPHER — A 90-year-old World War II veteran who rode his antique Schwinn bicycle five days a week to deliver newspapers in his southern Illinois town has died.

The (Carbondale) Southern Illinoisian reported that Marvin Teel, of Christopher, died Saturday. He was admitted to the hospital two weeks before after he finished delivering his 40 newspapers on his 3-mile Benton Evening News route that day.

Teel told the Southern last year that his five-day-a-week route earned him the title of "World's Oldest Paperboy," given that his closest competitor, a 93-year-old California man, delivered the news only once a week.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Court backs broadcasters over Aereo

By MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a startup Internet company that pays broadcasters when it takes television programs from the airwaves and allows subscribers to watch them on smartphones and other portable devices.

The justices said in a 6-3 vote that Aereo Inc. is violating the broadcasters' copyrights by taking the signals for free. The ruling

preserves the ability of the television networks to collect huge fees from cable and satellite systems that transmit their programming.

Had services such as Aereo been allowed to operate without paying for the programming, more people might have ditched their cable services, meaning broadcasters would have been able to charge less for the right to transmit their programs.

Aereo looks a lot like a cable system, Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the court in rejecting

the company's attempts to distinguish itself from cable and satellite TV. "Aereo's system is, for all practical purposes, identical to a cable system," he said.

Aereo is available in New York, Boston, Houston and Atlanta among 11 metropolitan areas and uses thousands of coin-size antennas to capture television signals and transmit them to subscribers who pay as little as \$8 per month for the service. Because each subscriber is temporarily assigned a dime-sized, individual antenna,

Aereo had made the case that it wasn't like a cable company and wasn't doing anything customers couldn't do on their own at home.

Some justices worried during arguments in April that a ruling for the broadcasters could also harm the burgeoning world of cloud computing, which gives users access to a vast online computer network that stores and processes information.

Justices Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.94	\$4.10	\$4.23	\$4.15
Change in price	+1.8 cents	+2.0 cents	+2.0 cents	+3.7 cents
Netherlands	---	\$5.05	\$5.30	\$5.08
Change in price	---	+5.7 cents	+5.2 cents	+4.6 cents
U.K.	---	\$4.196	\$4.238	\$4.121
Change in price	---	+10.3 cents	+2.0 cents	+3.7 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.229	---
Change in price	---	---	+2.0 cents	---
Belgium	---	\$4.084	\$4.319	\$4.215
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.635	\$4.969
Change in price	---	---	-1.2 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.050	---	---	\$4.239
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.852	---	\$3.899
Change in price	---	+2.0 cents	---	+4.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.689	---	---	\$3.909
Change in price	+2.0 cents	---	---	+4.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.829	\$4.159	\$4.409	---
Change in price	+2.0 cents	+2.0 cents	+4.0 cents	---
Guam	\$3.819**	\$3.989	\$4.149	---
Change in price	+2.0 cents	+2.0 cents	+2.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade

For the week of June 28-July 4

MARKET WATCH

June 25, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	49.38
	16,867.51
Nasdaq composite	29.40
	4,379.76
Standard & Poor's 500	9.55
	1,959.53
Russell	9.44
	1,182.68

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		\$1.3980
Euro costs (June 27)		
Dollar buys (June 27)		€0.7153
British pound (June 27)		\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 27)		99.00
South Korean won (June 27)		992.00
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)		0.3771
British pound		\$1.7066/0.5880
Canada (dollar)		1.0713
China (Yuan)		6.2262
Denmark (Krone)		5.4681
Egypt (Pound)		7.1515
Hong Kong (Dollar)		\$1.3589/0.7359
Hungary (Forint)		227.32
Israel (Shekel)		3.4294
Japan (Yen)		101.55
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.2820
Norway (Krone)		6.1543
Philippines (Peso)		43.87
Poland (Zloty)		3.05
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)		3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)		1.2508
South Korea (Won)		1,016.84
Switzerland (Franc)		0.8952
Thailand (Baht)		32.49
Turkey (New Lira)		1,1281

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency, all figures are foreign currencies to the pound, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.10
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.38

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Tex	90	71	Cir	Chatanooga	89	68	Cldy	Fort Wayne	84	63	Cldy	Louisville	89	72	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	80	59	Pcdy	Chicago	81	60	Cldy	Fresno	92	62	Cldy	Lubbock	94	68	Pcdy
Albany, N.Y.	82	61	Pcdy	Cincinnati	87	66	Cldy	Goodland	87	62	Pcdy	Macon	91	70	Cldy
Albuquerque	91	67	Cir	Cleveland	78	64	Pcdy	Grand Rapids	83	59	Pcdy	Medford	77	56	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	84	62	Pcdy	Colorado Springs	83	56	Pcdy	Great Falls	70	48	Rain	Memphis	87	72	Rain
Amarillo	83	66	Pcdy	Columbia, S.C.	92	71	Pcdy	Green Bay	80	56	Cldy	Miami Beach	82	61	Cldy
Anchorage	62	45	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	92	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	90	68	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	98	73	Pcdy
Asheville	82	62	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	84	63	Pcdy	Hartford	85	63	Pcdy	Milwaukee	74	54	Cldy
Atlanta	87	71	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	79	60	Pcdy	Hartford	80	63	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	83	66	Cldy
Atlantic City	81	66	Pcdy	Corpus Christi	90	78	Cldy	Helena	72	51	Rain	Missoula	68	50	Rain
Austin	77	58	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	89	72	Cldy	Honolulu	88	73	Rain	Mobile	80	60	Rain
Baltimore	86	68	Pcdy	Dayton	85	64	Pcdy	Houston	90	75	Cldy	Montgomery	89	72	Cldy
Baton Rouge	89	72	Cldy	Daytona Beach	94	74	Cldy	Huntsville	88	68	Cldy	Nashville	87	69	Rain
Bilings	85	68	Cldy	Denver	85	59	Pcdy	Indianapolis	86	66	Cldy	New Orleans	88	75	Cldy
Birmingham	86	71	Cldy	Des Moines	85	68	Cldy	Jacksonville	88	68	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	77	63	Pcdy
Bozeman	82	65	Rain	Detroit	83	61	Cir	Jacksonville	94	74	Pcdy	Portland, Ore.	77	63	Pcdy
Boston	78	54	Cldy	Duluth	73	52	Cldy	Juneau	70	42	Cir	Reno	80	60	Cldy
Boulder	74	62	Pcdy	El Paso	100	81	Cir	Kansas City	85	69	Cldy	Richmond	89	69	Cldy
Bridgport	77	65	Cldy	Elkins	84	57	Pcdy	Key West	89	82	Pcdy	Rochester	81	61	Cldy
Brownsville	90	78	Cldy	Erie	76	61	Pcdy	Knoxville	88	65	Cldy	Rockford	64	62	Cldy
Buffalo	79	61	Cir	Eugene	69	56	Rain	Lake Charles	87	75	Rain	Sacramento	88	57	Pcdy
Burlington, Vt.	82	66	Cir	Evansville	84	68	Cldy	Lansing	82	59	Pcdy	St Louis	87	67	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	80	50	Cir	Fairbanks	67	51	Rain	Las Vegas	99	79	Pcdy	St. Petersburg	80	80	Cldy
Casper, Wyo.	84	54	Cldy	Fargo	84	67	Cldy	Lexington	87	69	Cldy	St. Thomas	83	79	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	92	74	Cldy	Flagstaff	78	52	Cir	Lincoln	86	70	Cldy	St. Thomas	83	79	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	87	62	Pcdy	Flint	83	56	Cir	Little Rock	88	72	Cldy	St. Thomas	83	79	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	90	71	Cldy	Fort Smith	87	69	Cldy	Los Angeles	79	63	Pcdy	St. Thomas	83	79	Cldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 115, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 27, Charleston, Nev.

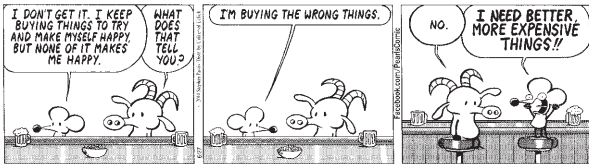
Frazz



Dilbert



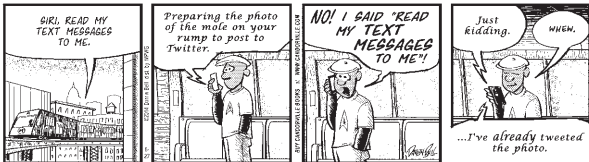
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



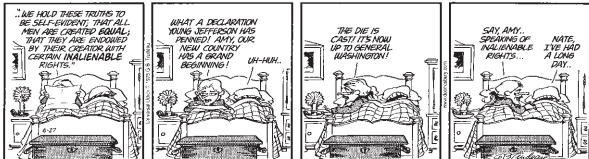
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

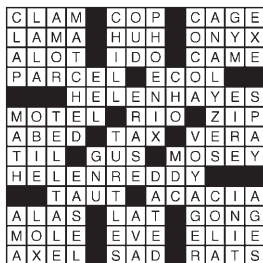
- 1 Scenery chaser
- 4 Fellow
- 8 Departed
- 12 Inventor Whitney
- 13 Pennsylvania port
- 14 Culture medium
- 15 Church VIP
- 17 Small valley
- 18 Wagon
- 19 Confuse
- 20 High points
- 22 Rescue
- 24 Possesses
- 25 Changed for the better
- 29 Culpa lead-in
- 30 Variety of couch
- 31 Bachelor's final answer

DOWN

- 1 Height of fashion?
- 2 Foreman foe
- 3 Philippine island
- 4 Small plateaus
- 5 Dilettantish
- 6 Whopper
- 7 Always, in verse
- 8 Firetruck necessity
- 9 "Zounds!"
- 10 Drop
- 11 Genealogy chart
- 16 Annoys
- 19 Shakespeare's river
- 20 "— and Circumstance"
- 21 Basin accessory
- 22 Good roll in Vegas
- 23 Somewhere out there

- 25 Hayworth or Moreno
- 26 Nutritional needs
- 27 Fix the wording
- 28 Morse morsels
- 30 Cupola
- 33 Center
- 34 Attempt
- 36 "— Line Is It Anyway?"
- 37 Presentation
- 38 Francis, e.g.
- 39 Winged
- 40 Quick cut
- 42 Atlas page
- 43 "— Got a Secret"
- 44 Abu Dhabi's land (Abbr.)
- 45 Catcher's place?

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-27

CRYPTOQUIP

WDSGRV QFRZS Q FZIGA RU
BMXQSDMW QIL SAMDB NRMW
NDSA DISMBIMS GRIIMGSDSDSH:

"VRLMV UQVDXH."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THOSE FELLOWS UNLAWFULLY FIRED AIR RIFLES, THEY'LL PROBABLY BE TRIED IN A PELLET COURT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O

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OPINION

Poles apart, but there's power in the center

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH

The Philadelphia Inquirer

A recently released survey from the Pew Research Center received extensive coverage from prominent media outlets, which were nearly uniform in casting the information in an ominous light:

New York Times: "Polarization is dividing American society, not just politics."

Washington Post: In polarized United States, we live as we vote.

Politico: "Polarization is highest in recent history."

Alan Murray, president of the Pew Research Center, wrote an analysis for The Wall Street Journal under the headline "Bruce Stokes' view of the global economic attitudes at DSN, offered his own take at CNN.com (headlined "Is America dangerously divided?"), which began:

"If you thought that political polarization in America was bad, think again. Because it's worse than you thought. And if you're under the impression that dysfunctionality in Washington is merely a product of partisan political gamesmanship on Capitol Hill, try again. Because a new survey finds that the divisions inside the Beltway actually reflect a deep ideological divide within the U.S. public that manifests itself not only in politics, but in everyday life. Indeed, this polarization is growing — and it has profound implications for economic and security issues that affect the rest of the world."

Like the headlines, that summary presages a pretty harrowing picture of the state of our national discourse based upon what's billed as the largest study of U.S. political attitudes ever undertaken by Pew (10,013 adults sampled nationwide).

But I don't buy it. Where others see confirmation that the divide among Americans is akin to that which separates those

we elect, I'm digesting data that offer hope in our need to get beyond gridlock.

The undeniable bad news is that the number of partisans is on the rise. Those among us with consistently conservative and consistently liberal views have doubled in the last two decades from 10 percent to 21 percent — one in five Americans. But here's the better news: 80 percent of the country is not in this grouping of ideological uniformity and partisan animosity.

While "ideological silos" are now common on the left and right, Pew's survey noted: "These sentiments are not shared by all — or even most — Americans. The majority do not have uniformly conservative or liberal views. Most do not see either party as a threat to the nation. And more believe their representatives in government should meet halfway to resolve contentious disputes rather than hold out for more of what they want."

In other words, most Americans are centrists, disbelieving of the partisan hype that they are fed by each party about the other, and would like to see compromise.

That potent political power can be harnessed by nonpartisans was suggested in January, when a Gallup analysis found that 42 percent of Americans regard themselves not as Republican or Democrats, but as independents, the highest ever recorded tabulation in Gallup history. A similar finding came in November, when Esquire magazine published a detailed analysis of the country's middle, based upon polling data provided by a joint venture of the Obama and Romney pollsters from the 2012 election.

The Benenson Strategy Group (Obama campaign) and Neil Newhouse of Public Opinion Strategies (Romney) surveyed 2,410 registered American voters. They found the American center to represent approximately 51 percent of the electorate, a sum greater than the left and right

combined. Of course, the composition of the Pew, Gallup and Esquire data raises the question of why the composition of Congress, much less the modern discourse, doesn't reflect the majority of voices. The answer is lack of engagement. Or, as the Pew survey explained:

"[M]any of those in the center remain on the edges of the political playing field, relatively distant and disengaged, while the most ideologically oriented and politically rancorous Americans make their voices heard through greater participation in every stage of the political process. The rise of ideological uniformity has been much more pronounced among those who are the most politically active."

Thomas Mann, a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution, has been studying partisanship for decades. He co-authored "It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism," with Norman Ornstein. Mann simplified the dynamics: Roughly 40 percent of the nation doesn't vote, is not caught up in the ideological battles, and pays little attention to politics. And while consistent voters are about 20 percent of the electorate, they are a significant number of the 60 percent that does vote.

"Those actively engaged voters now reflect and reinforce the depolarization in Congress among elected officials," Mann said.

He's right. Change will come only when the passion of nonpartisans drives their participation. (With the current congressional approval rate at 16 percent, according to Gallup, you'd hope we would be getting close.) Until then, it's apt to say that political power rests in the center, with rests being the operative word.

Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer, and is host of "Smerconish" on CNN.

Miss. claims to want frugality yet won't vote for it

By GEORGE F. WILL

CHRIS McDaniel, 41, the flawed paladin of the tea party persuasion who in Mississippi's Republican Senate primary failed to wrest the nomination from the faltering hands of six-term incumbent Thad Cochran, 76, came into politics after a stint in tax radio. There practitioners do not live by the axiom that you don't have to explain something you never said, and McDaniel had some explaining to do about some of his more colorful broadcast opinions and phrases, which may have given a number of voters pause about whether he is quite senatorial, whatever that means nowadays.

Also, Democrats and independents who had not voted in the Democrat's primary could vote in the Republican's. They probably care more than Republicans like to admit that they themselves care about legislative pork, of which Cochran has served up heaping amounts during his 33 years on the Appropriations Committee. This bright red state has the nation's highest per capita income, the highest federal funding as a percent of revenue, and a surplus of cognitive dissonance between its professed conservatism and its actual enjoyment of the benefits Cochran can now continue to savor at will.

Mississippi's conservatives understand the bargain they have struck. One resident of a town not named for the tea party spirit, Olive Branch, told The New York Times she suspected Cochran engaged in costly logrolling: "There's no telling what kinds of liberal things he had to vote for to get those kinds of things for Mississippi — what kind

of trading he had to do."

Give tea partiers their due by acknowledging the virtue that makes them scary to their cultured despisers. The tea party's critics consider its politics not properly focused on the material things appropriations buy.

Ten years ago, a talented polemicist of the left, Thomas Frank, wrote a lively lament, "What a Kansas man with Kansas!" His book's title replicated the title of a scalding 1896 editorial in The Emporia Gazette by that paper's famous editor, William Allen White, who believed that populist hostility to sophisticates and wealth creators was impoverishing Kansas.

In 2014, Frank, a Kansas native, argued that Kansas voters "against" the Democratic Party because they misunderstand "their fundamental interests." Rather than lining up for largess from liberalism's government cornucopia, they are distracted by cultural concerns. Instead of seeking concrete benefits, they vote upon abstractions, such as constitutionalism, limited government and cultural conservatism.

So, what's the matter with the tea party, according to those who think there is much the matter with it? It is insufficiently materialistic. Hence its reluctance to be bought by the appropriator. And what's the matter with Mississippi, about its appetite for what has waited a long time for this to be said — that it is so much like the rest of the nation.

The best thing about Mississippi's recent moment in the national spotlight is how normal the state seems. It is, like the nation, defined by its ambivalence, its uneasy compromise, about its appetite for what Washington dispenses. Mississippi today is

burning with embarrassment, but not, at long last, embarrassment about race.

Its Republican primary occurred three days after the 50th anniversary of the disappearance and murder of three civil rights workers — Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney — near the town of Philadelphia in Neshoba County. Today, Philadelphia's mayor is black, and Mississippi, which is 37 percent black, has more black elected officials than any other state.

Mississippi has not elected a Democratic senator since 1982, when it gave a sixth full term to John Stennis, who was first elected to fill a vacancy created by an incumbent's death in 1947. Which means no Mississippi has become a freshmen Democratic senator since Harry Truman was president. So, the tea party's low-risk inscription hardly threatened a GOP Senate seat.

McDaniel's defeat, like many the tea party has experienced this primary season, brings that feisty faction face to face with a melancholy fact: Americans' devotion to frugal government is frequently avowed but rarely inhibiting. If the nation's treasury is to be closed, this will not be done as abruptly as tea partiers wish, and will not be done without their continued wholesome agitation. They must take to heart the truth Thomas Jefferson told in 1790 to a congressional candidate: "[T]he ground of liberty is to be gained by inches, that we must be contented to secure what we can get from time to time, and eternally press forward for what is yet to get."

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other state/side syndicates.

Congress needs to rein in NSA The Seattle Times

Public outrage over Edward Snowden's revelations of spying abuses by the National Security Agency has finally had a welcomed consequence. Congress — supine for years in its duty to check the agency's power — is finally regrouping its spine.

The first indication came in May, when the House first passed important, but watered-down, reforms. The USA Freedom Act was intended to end the NSA's bulk and warrantless collection of American's phone records. But last-minute amendments gave the NSA too much wiggle room to conduct business as usual.

Last week, the spine stiffened. The House, by a 293-123 margin, moved to hit the NSA where it hurts — in its budget — by defunding what the Electronic Frontier Foundation called "two of the NSA's most invasive surveillance practices," including the practice of requiring American companies to install backdoor spy holes in communications hardware and software. ...

A yes vote on NSA reforms resets the balance of the NSA's role between homeland protection and bedrock American civil liberties. In the post-9/11 decade of passive and deferring congressional oversight, that balance was tipped dangerously toward the former.

This reset now moves to the Senate. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., a champion of NSA reform even before Snowden's revelations, cites the agency's "long track record of misinterpreting surveillance laws in incredibly broad ways" as reason for the Senate to further stiffen its spine.

He has the backing of the American people. A recent Pew Research poll found broad cynicism about President Barack Obama's support for NSA reforms. By a 4-to-1 margin, Americans disbelieved the claim that reforms will weaken the fight on terrorism.

Congress, finally, is reclaiming its oversight spine.

Cellphone ruling was warranted The Washington Post

A unanimous Supreme Court declared Wednesday that, in the face of new technology that has reshaped daily life, it will not "unreasonably" intrude on legal doctrines that offer Americans too little protection in novel digital circumstances.

The justices ruled that law enforcement officers cannot rummage through the electronic contents of an arrestee's cellphone. In most cases, the officers must get a warrant first. This is an unambiguously sensible decision, showing that the court will not remain inert as the country strikes anew the balance between privacy and security. Rather, it will bound the debate with serious, basic limits on electronic search and seizure.

The justices considered two cases in which police officers confiscated and examined the phones of two men they had arrested. In one case, information on a suspect's phone led officers to search his apartment, where they found drugs, a gun and ammunition. In the other, officers inspected photos and text stored on a suspect's phone to link him to a gang shooting. Both men claimed that, since the police had not obtained warrants, taking the electronic evidence violated their Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

To press that claim, their lawyers had to overcome several Supreme Court precedents



HEBA ELKHOLY, EL SHOROUK NEWSPAPER/AP

From left, Australian correspondent Peter Grete, Canadian-Egyptian acting bureau chief of Al-Jazeera Mohamed Fahmy and Egyptian producer Baher Mohammed appear in a defendant's cage in a courtroom in Cairo on Monday. The three journalists were convicted of terrorism-related charges and sentenced to seven years in prison by an Egyptian court.

edents that gave law enforcement officers relatively wide latitude to search through material on or around an arrestee's person. Officers can look at physical notes, photos and other records that happen to be in a suspect's pocket — or anywhere within his or her reach — during an arrest.

But the court rightly refused to draw a simplistic analogy between the physical objects a person can carry and the vast storehouse of digital material accessible through the average mobile phone. "That is like saying a ride on horseback is materially indistinguishable from a flight to the moon," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. "Both are ways of getting from point A to point B, but little else justifies lumping them together."

Roberts noted that, absent any restrictions on browsing through arrestees' cellphones, officers would have access to massive amounts of information. Phone hard drives can contain galleries of pictures, thousands of pages of documents, hundreds of videos and email records dating back months or more. Modern mobile phones contain all sorts of information that police never or almost never would have found on suspects when judges constructed the old rules: Internet browsing data, search histories and medical records, to name a few. The government's old justifications for warrantless searches of arrestees were protecting police officers' safety and securing evidence from destruction. Neither can justify unsupervised intrusion into a smartphone trove.

Help Colombia reach its goals (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

Colombians had reason to celebrate last week. The national soccer team trounced Greece and Ivory Coast in its two first-round World Cup games, and President Juan Manuel Santos was elected to a second term.

The election was largely viewed as a referendum on peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which Santos initiated in 2012. Prior to Santos' re-election, his government announced that it also would begin preliminary peace negotiations with the nation's second largest guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN.

The outcome is a major victory for stability and economic growth in the region and helps ensure not just the continuation of the FARC peace process but also sustained ties between the U.S. and one of its

closest allies in Latin America.

But Santos' first international appearance in his second term wasn't in Havana, where the FARC peace talks have been held. He traveled to Brazil, where he applauded Colombia's national soccer team as it defeated the Ivory Coast, 2-1, on June 19. It was a smart populist move in a country that cares about soccer almost as much as it cares about politics.

Santos' victory strengthens Colombia's bid to become South America's next international economic success story. The U.S. should continue to support Santos' openness to foreign investment in Colombia — and his efforts for peace in the region.

Egypt's development arrested The Wall Street Journal

These days the Middle East seems to be returning to the Middle Ages, and this week Egypt made its contribution to premodernity by jailing three journalists for the crime of doing their job.

An Egyptian judge sentenced an Australian, an Egyptian-Canadian and an Egyptian who work for Al-Jazeera's English-language news network each to at least seven years in prison. The men were accused of collaborating last year with the Muslim Brotherhood to "give the appearance Egypt is in a civil war." All three have worked for other large international media outlets.

This case is really about a larger dispute between the Egyptian military regime of new President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Qatar's ruling royal family, which owns Al-Jazeera and supported the Muslim Brotherhood. After mass public protests last year, the military removed President Mohammed Morsi, who belonged to the Brotherhood.

The charges against the journalists are invented and the sentences were quickly denounced around the world. Secretary of State John Kerry called them "chilling, draconian" and "a deeply disturbing setback to Egypt's transition." He's right, but they are also typical of the new old Egypt. More than 1,000 Brotherhood members have been arrested and convicted to long sentences or death. Egyptian liberal activist Ahmed Maher was sentenced last year to three years in prison. A dozen other journalists are in jail, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Not that the military seems to care much about outside criticism. The sentences came down a day after Kerry had visited

el-Sissi and had said the general "gave me a very strong sense of his commitment" to improve Egypt's human-rights record and transition to democracy. Egypt's future now depends on enlightened military rule, and so far there are few signs of that.

Palestinians' gloating unhelpful Boston Herald

Little news from Palestinian territories startles Americans these days. Everybody has heard everything before — horrible violence and war included. Yet we can't get used to the idea of Palestinians rejoicing over Israeli misfortune.

When word of the apparent kidnapping of three hitchhiking Israeli teenagers in the West Bank reached Palestinian communities, residents passed around trays of candies in celebration. A Facebook campaign sprang up, with supporters of the kidnapping posting pictures of three fingers on their pages to represent the three victims.

It recalled the dancing in the streets of Palestinian towns in 2011 when Israel released 1,027 prisoners, collectively responsible for the murders of 569 Israelis, to recover one Israeli soldier.

Israeli troops have been turning the West Bank upside down in searching for the three — arresting scores and clearly putting pressure on the terrorist organization Hamas, which Israel blames for the kidnappings. Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank with which Hamas is supposed to have joined in a "unity" government, has denounced the kidnappings and pledged cooperation of his security agencies in finding the teenagers.

Hamas has denounced Abbas for cooperating, which the authority has done for several years, and praised the seizure of "Israeli soldiers," a false description of the three seminary students. Abbas likely is not unhappy to see Hamas pressured.

So is Israel using the teenagers as a pretext for attacking Hamas? Israel doesn't need a pretext. Hamas runs Gaza, from which rockets were fired into Israel for five days in a row last week, leading to Israeli air attacks on suspected rocket sites.

Hamas may win applause among Palestinians, whose opinion of Israel in polls can hardly go lower. But Palestinians will get nowhere until they understand that Israel's security is not a popularity contest.

MLB

Freak show

Giants' Lincecum pitches 2nd no-hitter vs. Padres

By JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The shaggy hair, overpowering fastball and consistent dominance have been replaced by a mustache, off-speed pitches and a long stretch of mediocrity.

Tim Lincecum has undergone quite a transformation since bursting on the scene as the undersized Freak who dominated bulky sluggers.

Through it all, Lincecum has remained a fan favorite in San Francisco for his ability to produce memorable performances.

Lincecum pitched his second no-hitter against the San Diego Padres in less than a year, allowing only one runner Wednesday and leading the San Francisco Giants to a 4-0 win.

"Right now I guess I can say it's really cool," Lincecum said. "When I get older I can reflect on that a little more and just take it in for what it's worth. Right now I'm still kind of in the moment."

Lincecum shut down the weakest-hitting team in the majors, striking out six and walking one in a 113-pitch outing — 35 fewer than he needed last July 13 against the Padres in his first no-hitter.

Lincecum retired the final 23 batters after walking Chase Headley in the second inning, relying much more on his off-speed stuff than his fastball. Though the Padres hit a few balls hard, San Francisco fielders didn't need to make any exceptional plays to preserve Lincecum's gem.

"I've always been a guy who will kind of go for the strikeout," Lincecum said. "I think my first no-hitter I had 13, so I think I was going for those a little bit more often."

"Today I tried to be a little bit more efficient and take what they were going to give me. They were giving me a lot of groundballs and a lot of pop flies, so I was just going to try to keep attacking the way that I was," he said.

The right-hander with two NL Cy Young Awards became just the second pitcher in major league history to no-hit the same team twice. Hall of Famer Addie Joss did it for Cleveland against the Chicago White Sox with a perfect game in 1908 and a no-hitter in 1910.

Lincecum (6-5) threw the 16th no-hitter in Giants' history. Just one other pitcher has thrown two for the team: Christy Mathewson for the New York Giants more than 100 years ago.

"It's hard enough to do one," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "To do two, that puts you in a little different class. I couldn't be happier."

Lincecum joined Sandy Koufax, Randy Johnson and Roy Halladay as the only pitchers with two Cy Young awards and two no-hitters.

"Just to be in that company allows me a chance to pat myself on the back a little bit," he said.

Making the performance even sweeter was the fact that Lincecum got two hits of his own, becoming the first pitcher with two hits in a no-hitter since Rick Wise hit two homers for Philadelphia against Cincinnati on June 23, 1971.

"Regardless of what they did, I think it's cool I got two hits anyway because up to today I only had one and a pretty poor batting average," Lincecum said. "I got that thing above .100 and I feel much better about it."

But Lincecum will always be known for his pitching. He arrived as a shaggy-haired phenom nicknamed the Freak in 2007 for his ability to generate tremendous velocity from his slight frame.

He won NL Cy Young awards in 2008 and '09 and helped lead the Giants to their first World Series title in San Francisco the following season.



ERIC RISBERG/AP

San Francisco pitcher Tim Lincecum heads for the dugout after being doused by his teammates following his no-hitter against the San Diego Padres on Wednesday in San Francisco.

By the numbers

4

2

2

Lincecum, Sandy Koufax, Randy Johnson, and Roy Halladay are only pitchers to win two Cy Young awards & throw two no-hitters.

Number of Giants who have thrown two no-hitters. Christy Mathewson did it for the New York Giants over 100 years ago.

Number of pitchers to no-hit the same team twice. Hall of Famer Addie Joss did it for Cleveland vs. the White Sox in 1908 & 1910.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

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MLB

Price shuts down Pirates amid trade rumors

By DICK SCANLON

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — If it was David Price's last start for the Tampa Bay Rays, it will go down as one of his best.

Price struck out 11, becoming the first pitcher in 10 years to fan at least 10 in five straight starts, and the Rays beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-1 on Wednesday.

"I've never been as good as I am right now, period. Not in 2012 (when he won the Cy Young Award), not in college, not in high school," declared Price, who is rumored to be on the trading block from the last-place Rays. "This is the best pitcher I've ever been. I feel in complete control on the mound at all times.

"I'm throwing all my pitches on both sides of the plate, and that's tough to do."

Price (6-7) gave up five hits and one walk in 8 1/3 innings, leaving the game after Andrew McCutchen's home run in the ninth.

"[Finishing the game] is something I wanted to do for sure," Price said, "but I understand Joe (Maddon) coming out there after McCutchen hit the home run. The last batter at Vanderbilt was a home run, my last batter last year was a home run, and now you guys think I'm out of here and my last hitter for the Rays was a home run again."

The last pitcher with five straight starts with 10 strikeouts was Minnesota's Johan

Santana from June 20-July 11, 2004.

Price also set a franchise record for strikeouts in a month with 54. He went 2-3 in five June starts.

"I'm sure it's been said before: Price was right today," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "His 107th pitch was 97 (mph), so he was on his game today. He's been one of the best for a while."

Ben Zobrist's RBI triple highlighted the Rays' three-run first inning off Charlie Morton. Desmond Jennings and James Loney had singles, and Kevin Kiermaier drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Morton (4-9) struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings, giving up four hits.

Price was backed by defensive plays that included Evan Longoria landing in the first row of the stands after making a running catch of a pop, and center fielder Jennings running down Neil Walker's 400-foot line drive at the wall with two men on base.

"The way David pitched today, you've got to try to make all the plays for him," Jennings said. "If he pitches like that, which he normally does, you just want to go out and do your job."

McCutchen's homer was his 12th of the season and eighth this month.

The Pirates failed for the seventh time this season to finish off a series sweep of at least three games.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Rays pitcher David Price struck out 11 Pirates on Wednesday, becoming the first pitcher in 10 years to fan at least 10 batters in five straight starts. The Rays won 5-1.

Roundup

Upton homers for second straight night to lift Braves

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — After a tough June where Justin Upton has hit under .200, the Atlanta Braves hope the last two games are an indication that he'll get back to where he was earlier this season.

Upton homered for the second straight game and drove in three runs and Alex Wood pitched seven scoreless innings to help the Braves to a 4-0 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday night.

"When he gets hot like this it's really, really something to watch," manager Fredi Gonzalez said. "Hopefully this is the beginning of one of those big runs that he can give us."

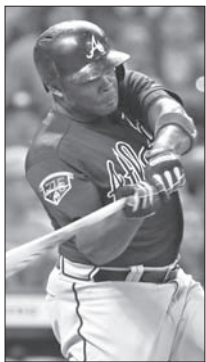
Upton is hitting just .185 this month, but his average for the season is .272 after a great start to the year.

"I'm seeing the ball and hitting it, that's about it," Upton said. "I've gotten some good pitches to hit and I've put good swings on them."

Shae Simmons and Juan Jaime finished the three-hitter as the Astros were shut out for the 10th time this season.

The Braves had just two hits when Upton launched his 16th homer, a two-run shot into the bullpen in right-center, to make it 3-0 in the seventh inning. Colin McHugh (4-6) had plunked Jason Heyward to set up things for Upton.

Upton drove in Atlanta's first run on a sacrifice fly in the second inning. He joked that Wood owed him a treat of some kind for providing most of the offense in



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

The Braves' Justin Upton hits a two-run homer against the Astros in the seventh inning Wednesday in Houston. Upton homered for the second straight game, driving in three runs.

the win.

"Just maybe get an ice cream cone or something," Upton said with a laugh. "They've got some good ice cream in there, at least get a scoop of ice cream."

Angels 6, Twins 2: Garrett Richards allowed four hits into the eighth inning to win his fourth straight decision as the host Angels earned their fifth straight victory.

Erick Aybar got two hits and stole two bases as Los Angeles won for the 14th time in 16 games at Angel Stadium, moving to a season-high 10 games over .500 at 43-33. The Angels are unbeaten on their homestand, matching their longest winning streak of the year.

Brewers 9, Nationals 2: Scooter Gennett had a grand slam and five RBIs, Kris Davis added a solo shot as host Milwaukee roughed up ace pitcher Stephen Strasburg in a rout.

Home-prone starter Marco Estrada (7-4) allowed just two hits — and no homers — and pitched effectively into the seventh for the Brewers, who bounced back a day after falling 4-2 in 16 innings to Washington.

Strasburg (6-6) was tagged for eight hits and seven runs in 4 1/3 innings. It matched a career-worst outing for Strasburg, who also allowed seven earned runs in a two-inning start against Miami on July 12, 2013.

Cardinals 9, Rockies 6: Matt Adams homered and drove in two runs, and Matt Holliday had three hits as visiting St. Louis rallied to beat Colorado.

Drew Stubbs homered, and Justin Morneau had two hits for the Rockies, who finished their homestand 1-5.

The game featured the major league debuts of both starting pitchers. St. Louis' Marco Gonzales was sharp early before faltering. Colorado's Yohan Flande also started well before getting hit hard in his last inning.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 3: Mark Teixeira hit a two-run home run and Hiroki Kuroda won for the first time in four starts as host New York beat Toronto to end a four-game losing streak.

Kuroda (5-5) won for the first time since May 28, at St. Louis, allowing three runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings. He gave up a home run to Jose Reyes on his first pitch.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 4: David Ortiz hit the 449th home run of his career in the first inning and added a line drive RBI single off the wall in the third as Boston avoided a sweep in Seattle.

Ortiz connected for a two-run shot off the windows of the cafe in right field at Safeco Field against Hisashi Iwakuma (5-4).

Orioles 5, White Sox 4 (12): Nelson Cruz hit a tying grand slam in the eighth inning and David Lough scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the 12th, sending host Baltimore over Chicago.

There was a rain delay of more than an hour after the ninth inning ended.

Dodgers 5, Royals 4: Wade Davis plunked A.J. Ellis with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth inning, sending visiting Los Angeles Dodgers past Kansas City.

James Wright (3-2) threw 2 1/3 scoreless innings. Brian Wilson handled the ninth in place of closer Kenley Jansen for his first save since April 12, 2012.

Indians 6, Diamondbacks 1: Corey Kluber gave Cleveland a much-needed quality start, pitch-

ing seven effective innings to help beat host Arizona and end a four-game losing streak.

The Indians ran through their bullpen in a 14-inning game the night before Kluber (7-5) gave them a lift.

Athletics 8, Mets 5: Yoenis Cespedes hit a three-run double and slumping Brandon Moss had a two-run homer as visiting Oakland jumped all over an ineffective Zack Wheeler.

Coco Crisp homered and had three hits as the AL West leaders built an eight-run cushion for Brad Mills (1-0), who took a shut-out into the seventh inning for his first major league victory in almost two years.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2: Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run double for visiting Miami, and Henderson Alvarez threw 6 1/3 strong innings.

Alvarez (5-3) allowed two runs — one earned — and seven hits. He is 3-0 with an 0.78 ERA in his last seven starts.

Reds 4, Cubs 1: Mat Latos pitched seven impressive innings for his first win of the season and Jay Bruce had two run-scoring doubles that led visiting Cincinnati.

With the wind blowing in on a cold summer night, Devin Mosecoso's five-game homer streak came to an end. The Reds' catcher was tied with Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey Jr., Johnny Bench, George Crowe and Ted Kluszewski for the franchise record.

CWS/WIMBLEDON



ERIC FRANCIS/AP

Vanderbilt players celebrate after beating Virginia 3-2 in the deciding game of the best-of-three College World Series in Omaha, Neb., on Wednesday. A homer in the eighth won it for the Commodores.

HR lifts Vanderbilt to title

Tie-breaking blast in 8th gives Commodores first men's championship

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Dansby Swanson and Rhett Wiseman came oh-so close to hitting home runs for Vanderbilt early in the College World Series.

John Norwood finally got a ball to clear the fence, and his timing was impeccable — in the third and deciding game of the CWS finals.

His tie-breaking homer into the left-field bullpen against Nick Howard in the eighth inning Wednesday night at TD Ameritrade Park delivered a 3-2 victory over Virginia that gave the Commodores' their first national championship in a men's sport.

"I just was hoping that it didn't have enough top spin that it would hit the fence," coach Tim Corbin said. "They had seen two already — Dansby's and Rhett's — and they were 6 inches away from being home runs."

"But Johnny's strength and bat speed, with the velocity of Howard, that doesn't happen to that kid. A 97-mile-an-hour fastball, and for someone to turn it around like that, takes a great amount of ability."

TD Ameritrade Park had yielded only two homers in this CWS and a total of 24 in the four years the event has been played at the cavernous stadium.

"I thought it was gone, but you never know in this park," Norwood said. "I was just hoping it went out, and if it didn't, I knew my teammates would pick me up. It's a home run, but it's also a team effort to get here. We were confident the whole entire year."

It was Norwood's third homer of the year, his first since April 19, and Vanderbilt's first since May 16. It also was only the third home run in 16 CWS games this year and the 22nd in 72 games by the Commodores (51-21).

"He put a heck of a swing on an elevated fastball, and he hit it and knew it was gone," Swanson said. "So I had a little trust in him that it would get out." The Cavaliers (53-16) loaded the bases with one out in the eighth when Adam Ravenelle hit Kenny

Towns. But Mike Papi was forced out at home on a chopper to Ravenelle, and Brandon Downes grounded out.

The title was secured when Ravenelle struck out Daniel Pinerio. The school's only other title came in women's bowling in 2007.

"This dog pile was by far the best," first baseman Zander Wiel said. "These guys are my brothers and to celebrate this with them is just incredible. It's just so special to be a part of history. Everybody here represents Vanderbilt in the best way, and I'm glad to be a part of the first men's national championship in history."

Swanson, Vandy's second baseman, was chosen the CWS Most Outstanding Player. Swanson batted .323 in the CWS, scored five runs, drove in two and stole three bases. He played flawlessly in the field.

"When you've got guys backing up each other like we do, anything is possible," Swanson said.

After the last out, Vanderbilt players grabbed the championship trophy and hoisted Corbin on their shoulders.

"Every coach, you immerse yourself in the kids and they become more than baseball players; they become your sons," Corbin said. "This is a nice feeling. It's good to watch them celebrate achievements."

Hayden Stone (4-0) relieved starter Carson Fulmer with one out in the sixth and allowed two hits before turning the game over to Ravenelle after Virginia's first two batters reached in the eighth. Ravenelle earned his third save of the CWS.

Howard (2-2) came on in the eighth after Artie Lewicki had pitched six innings of four-hit relief. He left a fastball up that Norwood put over the fence, just right of the 335-foot sign.

"You've got to credit John Norwood," Virginia coach Brian O'Connor said. "The pitch was in the zone and he took an aggressive swing and hit the ball out."

No repeat: Nadal rallies to top Rosol

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Rafael Nadal was one point away from falling behind by two sets before rallying Thursday to beat Lukas Rosol, the Czech player who knocked him out at Wimbledon in the same round and on the same court two years ago.

The top-ranked Nadal, a two-time Wimbledon champion, raised his game just in time to avoid falling into a deep hole, rallying for a 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4 victory on Centre Court to advance to the third round.

The hard-hitting, 6-foot-5 Rosol had a chance to go up two sets to love when he had a set point at 6-5 in the second-set tiebreaker. But Nadal saved it with a forehand winner and Rosol double-faulted two points later to give the Spaniard the set.

As Nadal hopped and pumped his fist, his coach and uncle, Toni, jumped out of his seat in the guest box, shouted "Vamos" and also celebrated with a display of fist pumps.

That turnaround gave Nadal the momentum and he dominated play the rest of the way.

"I just wanted to keep fighting and wait for my moment," Nadal said.

Nadal broke for the first time to go up 2-1 in the third set, and closed out the set by holding serve and love and finishing with an ace. At one stage at the end of the third set and beginning of the fourth, Nadal ran off 14 points in a row.

While Nadal was made to work,

Scoreboard

Thursday
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London

Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Second Round

Milos Rastovic, Serbia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Kel Nishikori (10), Japan, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 6-3, 6-6, 6-1.

Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Dusan Lajovic (4), 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Simone Bolelli, Italy, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (22), Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Frank Danavicius, Canada, 6-3, 6-5, 6-4.

Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Gael Monfils (24), United States, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4.

Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Richard Gasquet (13), France, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 10-8.

Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4.

John Isner, United States, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

Adrian Panatta, Italy, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (22), Germany, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4.

Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-6, 7-5.

Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Julian Reister, Germany, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-4.

Women

First Round

Alize Cornet (25), France, def. Petra Cetkovic, Czech Republic, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-1, 6-1.

Ana Ivanovic (11), Serbia, def. Zheng Jie, China, 6-4, 6-0.

Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Karina Janajeva, Estonia, 6-7 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4.

Kirsten Flipkens (24), Belgium, def. Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-2, 6-1.

Karolina Pliskova (19), Germany, def. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-5.

Zarina Dijas, Kazakhstan, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (15), Spain, 7-6 (12), 5-7, 6-2.

Andrea Petkovic (20), Germany, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Doubles

First Round

Jonathan Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, def. Andreas Siljestrom, Sweden, and Igor Zelenay, Slovakia, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Scott Lipsky, United States, def. Lukas Dlouhy, Czech Republic, and Kyle Stanley, Australia, 7-6 (7), 6-0, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, and Igor Sijsling, Netherlands, def. Kyle Stanley, Britain, and Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Austin Krajciek and Donald Young, United States, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand, 7-5, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-0.

John Bennetto and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (4), France, def. Daniele Bracciali, Italy, and Jonathan Erlich, Israel, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Women

First Round

Liesel Huber and Lisa Raymond (15), United States, def. Veronice Meusburger, Austria, and Katarzyna Pietrangeli, Poland, 6-0, 7-5.

Anastasia Pavluchenko, Russia, and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, and Janette Husarova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Lina Kuipers, Netherlands, and Anastasia Rodionova (11), Australia, def. Karina Janajeva, Estonia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Yue Hirdnova, Czech Republic, and Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, def. Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Maria-Teresa Torro-Flor, Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

five-time women's champion Serena Williams wasted no time in reaching the third round, routing Chanelle Scheepers 6-1, 6-1 in just 49 minutes.

Chasing her 18th Grand Slam title, the top-seeded American overwhelmed the 94th-ranked South African in the opening match on Court 1, hitting eight aces and notching 26 winners.

The 30-year-old Scheepers, who had never won a match at Wimbledon until this week, had only five winners to go with 13 unforced errors.

Williams, coming off a second-round loss at the French Open, is playing in her 15th Wimbledon and 56th Grand Slam tournament.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga broke Sam Querrey's service in the 25th game of the final set and clinched the match in the following game for a two-day, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (4), 6-3, 14-12 win at Wimbledon on Thursday.

The second-round match was suspended on Wednesday due to darkness with the fifth set level at 9-9.

Among other men's matches, Australian teenager Nick Kyrgios saved nine match points before beating No. 13 seed Richard Gasquet 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 10-8.

The 19-year-old wild-card entry from Australia — the youngest player in the draw — served out the match at love after a hard-fought contest that lasted nearly four hours.

Other early women's winners included No. 11 Ana Ivanovic and No. 25 Alice Cornet.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Guard Evan Fournier was traded by Denver to Orlando for guard Arron Afflalo.

Briefly

Nuggets acquire Afflalo

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets have brought back Arron Afflalo, acquiring the veteran guard from the Orlando Magic for point guard Evan Fournier and the No. 56 pick in the draft, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has yet to be announced.

Afflalo played for the Nuggets for three seasons before being drafted on Aug. 10, 2012, as part of the blockbuster four-team, 12-player deal that also involved Dwight Howard. Afflalo averaged 18 points for the Magic last season.

Fournier is an up-and-coming guard whose minutes increased late in the season after Andre Miller was traded to Washington and Nate Robinson went out with a knee injury. Fournier averaged 8.4 points and 1.5 assists in 2013-14.

The 21-year-old Fournier was taken with the 20th overall pick in 2011.

Kings sign Gaborik to seven-year contract

LOS ANGELES — Left wing Marian Gaborik agreed to a seven-year deal Wednesday to stay with the Los Angeles Kings.

The Stanley Cup champions reached a deal with their late-season acquisition before he became an unrestricted free agent next week.

Martin transferring from Xavier to SMU

DALLAS — Justin Martin is transferring to SMU from Xavier and is expected to be eligible next season.

The 6-foot-6 forward was a starter the last two of his three seasons with the Musketeers. Martin was second on the team in scoring (11.7 points per game) and rebounding (5.2) as a junior.

Martin is eligible because he earned his bachelor's degree at Xavier, which went to the NCAA tournament twice in his three seasons.

Chandler heading back to Dallas

Knicks ship big man west in 6-player deal

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Mavericks and New York Knicks agreed Wednesday to a six-player trade that returns center Tyson Chandler to Dallas three years after he helped win a championship only to leave right away in free agency.

The Mavericks sent guards Jose Calderon, Shane Larkin and Wayne Ellington and center Samuel Dalembert to the Knicks for Chandler and point guard Raymond Felton.

The Knicks also get both of Dallas' draft picks Thursday night, a pair of second-round selections at Nos. 34 and 51. New York didn't have a draft pick before the first major personnel move since Phil Jackson took over as team president.

"The journey to build this team for the upcoming season and beyond continues," Jackson said. "We have added players with this move that will fit right in to our system while maintaining future flexibility."

New York is hoping to keep Carmelo Anthony despite the star forward planning to opt out of his contract and become a free agent on July 1. The Mavericks are reportedly on a short list of new destinations Anthony will also consider.

Chandler was the emotional catalyst for the Dirk Nowitzki-led Mavericks when they beat the Miami Heat in five games to win the franchise's first title in 2011.

Mavericks owner Mark Cuban made the much-debated decision not to offer him a long-term contract because of concerns over how the new labor deal would keep Dallas from making other moves. Chandler, who had a history of injuries, turned down a one-year deal worth about \$20 million for the security of a four-year, \$55 million contract with the Knicks.

The 31-year-old Chandler is going into the final season of that deal at \$14.5 million, and Felton has one year at \$3.8 million with a player option for another season in the same



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Dallas Mavericks and the New York Knicks have agreed to a trade that would bring center Tyson Chandler back to the Mavericks three years after he helped them win a championship only to leave right away in free agency.

range.

Calderon just finished the first season of a four-year, \$28 million contract with the Mavericks, who also signed Monta Ellis to a multi-year deal last summer. It was the first time Dallas had committed to any player beyond one year since Nowitzki signed his most recent extension in 2010.

Nowitzki will join Anthony in free agency, but he is expected to re-sign with the Mavericks.

Also:

■ Houston Rockets GM Daryl Morey has earned a reputation for being one of the most aggressive, think-big executives in the NBA. And it's impossible to think any bigger than LeBron James.

The Rockets took the first big step toward making a run at James by agreeing to trade Omer Asik and cash considerations to the New Orleans Pelicans for a protected future first-round draft pick, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday night. The person requested anonymity because the deal cannot be completed until July due to rules in the collective bargaining agreement and salary cap issues.

James informed the Miami Heat earlier this week that he is opting out of his contract and will become a free agent when the new league year begins on July 1. Carmelo Anthony did the same with the New York Knicks, meaning two of the most dynamic players in the league are available in the same summer.

Draft night trade process often confusing

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

Tom Penn was an assistant general manager with the Memphis Grizzlies in 2006 when they struck a deal with Houston before the draft.

If LaMarcus Aldridge, Rudy Gay or Brandon Roy was available when the Rockets came on the clock at No. 7, the Grizzlies would send veteran Shane Battier to Houston for the pick. Gay was still there when it was time for the Rockets to pick, so the Grizzlies had a deal.

If only it were that easy.

Because of the complex machinations behind getting a trade involving players already under contract approved, the deal could not be announced immediately. So Commissioner David Stern announced that the Rockets were picking Gay, and the UConn swingman came out from backstage and donned a Rockets cap.

In the interim, the story leaked out and it wasn't until much later in the night that all the steps were completed to allow the teams to officially announce the trade. That



SETH WENIG/AP

Michigan State's Andrean Payne, left, Kansas' Andrew Wiggins, center, and UCLA's Zack LaVine talk in New York on Wednesday. Some are criticizing the NBA's draft-night trade process, saying it often leaves both fans and players alike confused as to what players are going where.

kind of limbo is commonplace on NBA Draft night, creating confusion for players and viewers alike who is going where.

"I think we need to change this process on draft night to clean up the awkwardness because it's terrible," said Penn, now an ana-

lyst for ESPN. "And it gets worse every year because of our connectivity and the social nature of things and the fact that facts leak out in real time now."

In the NFL, trades are made quickly and announced immediately, but normally those deals only involve current or future draft picks.

In the NBA, veteran players often change teams as part of draft-night deals. When that happens, teams must disclose that player's medical history, the league has to make sure that the trades conform to the NBA's complex collective bargaining agreement rules and both teams have to conduct a trade call to finalize the deal.

The league is looking at options to expedite the process, but wants to avoid rushing deals through that may fall apart upon closer examination.

"I think we need to be able to do sort of conditional trade announcements," Penn said. "If one of these things does fall apart on a technicality, everybody will understand it and we'll just undo it. It would be a more honest way to do it."

WORLD CUP

Swiss advance on Shaqiri's hat trick

By CHRIS LEHOUITES
The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — Xherdan Shaqiri's hat trick put Switzerland into the second round of the World Cup, and kept coach Ottmar Hitzfeld gainfully employed for at least a few more days.

Shaqiri scored a pair of first-half goals and added another in the second Wednesday to give Switzerland a 3-0 victory over Honduras, a result that put the Swiss in second place in Group E behind France.

"We knew that we were going to show great football today," said Shaqiri, a Bayern Munich winger. "For us, this has been really a dream to be in the World Cup, small Switzerland in the World Cup."

The small Swiss will next face the not-so-small Lionel Messi and Argentina on Tuesday in Sao Paulo in what could be Hitzfeld's final match. The German veteran, a two-time Champions League winner as a coach, has said this tournament will be his last.

"We are really anxious for that. We also know that we are not the favorites for the match, but we are going to try for victory," Shaqiri said. "Getting to the round of 16, everything is possible. You never know."

Shaqiri scored his first goal in the sixth minute, dribbling into a crowd of defenders and curling a shot into the net off the underside of the crossbar. In the 31st, he collected a pass from Josip Drmic after a defensive error and easily beat Honduras goalkeeper Noel Valladares.

Shaqiri completed his hat trick in the 71st. Drmic did well to beat Honduras defender Victor Bernardez on the left and pass to a charging Shaqiri, who one-timed his shot past a diving Valladares.

In the other Group E game, France held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw.

The match at the Arena da Amazonia was the fourth and final game to be played in the Brazilian rainforest, and was the second to have an official cooling

Honduras coach quits after loss

MANAUS, Brazil — Honduras lost all three of its matches at the World Cup, and then lost its coach.

Luis Fernando Suarez, a Colombian who led Ecuador to the second round of the 2006 World Cup, quit his job Wednesday following a third straight loss in Brazil.

"I'm sorry I didn't manage more," said Suarez, who has been Honduras coach since March 2011. "I'm sad because I had a dream about this World Cup."

"I'm leaving with a good conscience. I don't think this is a defeat," he added. "I leave with a clean soul and conscience thinking I gave my best."

— The Associated Press

break because of the stifling heat and humidity.

According to FIFA, it was 79 degrees with the humidity at 88 percent when the match started. Referee Nestor Pitana of Argentina made the decision to stop the match in the 39th, and the break lasted for about a minute. There was also an official break in the first half of the United States-Portugal match on Sunday.

After three 6 p.m. starts at the Arena da Amazonia, Wednesday's match started at 4 p.m. But a noon thunderstorm combined with overcast skies and a slight breeze cooled the temperature a bit after several days of sunny skies and oppressive heat.

Switzerland and Honduras played each other at the World Cup in South Africa exactly four years ago, on June 25, 2010, but that match ended in a 0-0 draw and both teams were eliminated.

This time, the Swiss move on and Hitzfeld has plenty more work to do against Argentina.



BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

France's Laurent Koscielny, left, goes up for a header with Ecuador's Enner Valencia during Wednesday's Group E match at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The teams battled to a 0-0 draw.

France wins Group E

Les Bleus advance despite scoreless draw

By JEROME PUGMIRE
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — France's much-vaunted attack missed a series of chances as it drew 0-0 with 10-man Ecuador to reach the knockout stage of the World Cup on Wednesday, while the South Americans bowed out of the tournament.

France, which ended with seven points, had scored eight goals in two games and 39 in its previous 11. But the finishing on Wednesday lacked sharpness against a spirited Ecuador side which threatened all game on the break.

"I'm proud of what the players have achieved," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "We didn't take our chances, but that takes nothing away from our joy. We had to be vigilant against an Ecuador side that was quick and looked dangerous even with 10 men."

A win would have given France three group-stage wins for the first time since 1998 — the year it won the tournament on home soil. That looked odds-on after a 3-0 win against Honduras and a 5-2 rout of Switzerland.

"Some people thought we were the kings of the world," Deschamps said. "But all matches are difficult. Argentina had a difficult match against Nigeria (winning 3-2). These are high-intensity matches and it's difficult to qualify."

France next faces Nigeria on Monday. "It's a huge satisfaction to finish top, but it's not over," Deschamps said. "Nigeria is a solid and quick team, so it will be a very hard match."

Striker Karim Benzema did well again in his link-up play but could have added to his three goals so far.

"We did well in front of goal in previous games. We had chances but their goalkeeper made some good saves," Benzema said. "I hope we put them away against Nigeria."

Ecuador's chances, meanwhile, were hindered at Rio's Maracana stadium after Antonio Valencia was shown a straight red card in the 50th minute for raking his cleat down the leg of left back Lucas Digne.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

France's Olivier Giroud, right, mixes it up with Ecuador's Frickson Erazo.

But Ecuador may feel upset that France center half Mamadou Sakho was not shown a red card in the eighth minute when he appeared to elbow Oswaldo Minda in the face during a France corner.

"It's true that I'm a tough player but I respect my opponents," Sakho said.

Then, in a late incident off the ball, France forward Olivier Giroud jabbed his elbow in to Gabriel Achilier, who was standing behind him.



FRANK AUGUSTIN/AP

Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri reacts Wednesday after his side beat Honduras 3-0 in the Group E finale at the Arena da Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil. Shaqiri scored all three goals for Switzerland.

SPORTS



Freak nasty

Giants' Lincecum hurls second career no-hitter vs. Padres | **Page 25**

WORLD CUP: GERMANY 1, USA 0



JULIO CORTIZ/AP

United States goalkeeper Tim Howard can't stop a shot by Germany's Thomas Mueller during the Group G match on Monday. Germany won 1-0.

A minor disappointment

Germans get past US on Mueller goal; both squads will advance

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

RECIFE, Brazil — The United States reached the knockout stage of consecutive World Cups for the first time, just not the way the Americans wanted.

Germany beat the U.S. 1-0 Thursday in soggy Recife on Thomas Mueller's 55th-minute goal to win Group G, but the Americans held onto second place when Portugal defeated Ghana 2-1 in a game played simultaneously in Brasilia.

Inside:

- Ronaldo's goal gives Portugal win over Ghana, but isn't enough to advance, **Page 31**
- France takes Group E with draw, **Page 30**

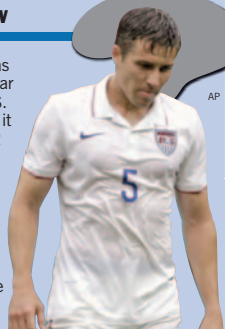
The Germans, three-time World Cup champions, finished with seven points, while the U.S. had four after allowing a 95th-minute goal against Portugal on Sunday in a 2-2 draw. Portugal also had four, but the Americans advanced from the

so-called "Group of Death" because their goal difference was even and the Portuguese were minus three.

The Americans will play the Group H winner, likely Belgium but possibly Algeria, Monday in Salvador.

Did you know

This World Cup has unfolded in a similar fashion for the U.S. as in 2002, when it opened with a 3-2 win over Portugal, tied South Korea 1-1 and lost to Poland 3-0. The U.S. advanced after South Korea defeated Portugal on an 80th-minute goal.



AP

SOURCE: The Associated Press

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